5
Saki
RITZ
KOBAYASHI

Saki
5
RITZ KOBAYASHI

SIGN: CAUTION

At last— the final round of the prefectural qualifiers!
.....
The schools have entrusted their fates to these remaining individuals !!

HAND 34: DEMON

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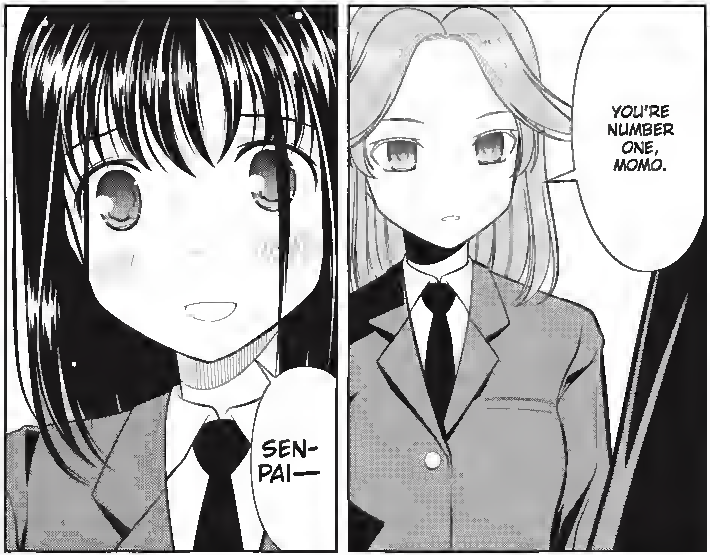
!
SEN-
PAI!!

I JUST COULDN'T GET AHEAD OF KIYOSUMI.
WELL... I BLEW IT, YO...
FIRST-YEAR, TSURUGA ACADEMY MOMOKO TOYOKO
IT SEEMS HARAMURA COULD SEE YOU.
THIRD-YEAR, TSURUGA ACADEMY YUMI KAJIKI

I LOST A BIT OF MY CONFIDENCE.
FWOOO
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE FACED SOMEONE LIKE THAT, YO...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
+9200
東横桃子
Momoko Toyoko
+6400
原村和
Nodoka Haramura
-5100
龍門渕透華
Toka Ryumonbuchi
-10500
深堀純代
Sumiyo Fukabori
Kazekoshi Girls' High School
IF YOU LOOK AT HOW MANY POINTS WERE ACQUIRED IN THE FOURTH MATCH...
...IT'S OBVIOUS WHO DID THE MOST.

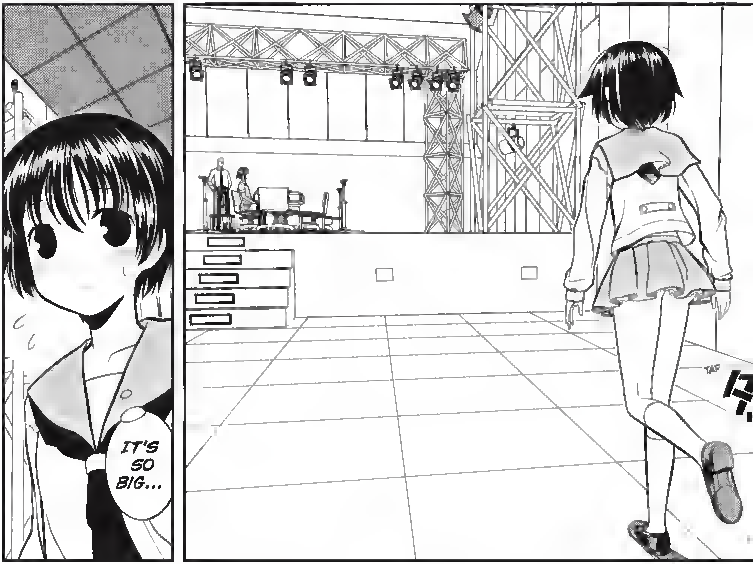
THOUGH IT WAS ONLY TWO HANCHAN, YOU TOOK ON LAST YEAR'S TOP TWO SCHOOLS, PLUS NODOKA HARAMURA, LAST YEAR'S MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMP...
...AND STILL SCORED THE MOST POINTS.

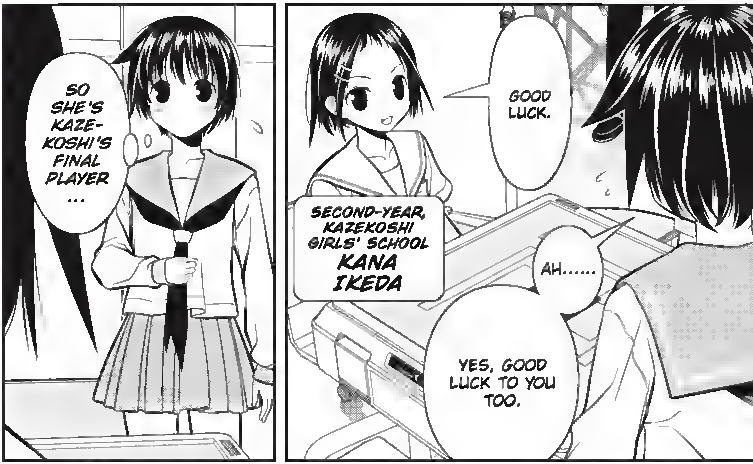

YOU'RE NUMBER ONE, MOMO.
SEN-PAI—

がばぁ
GLOMP
ULP!
I LOVE YOU YOOO!!
WAH!

KNOCK IT OFF!
NOT IN PUBLIC!

Playing Room A
12
9
6

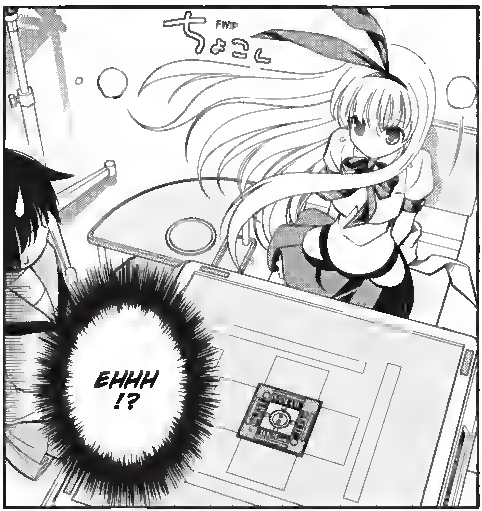

IT'S SO BIG...

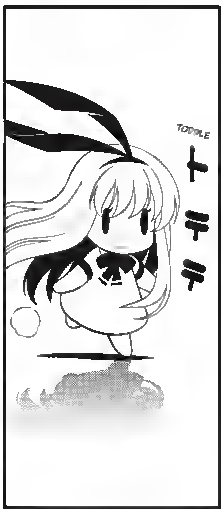

SO SHE'S KAZE-KOSHI'S FINAL PLAYER ...
GOOD LUCK.
SECOND-YEAR, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' SCHOOL KANA IKEDA
AH.....
YES, GOOD LUCK TO YOU TOO.

FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL SAKI MIYANAGA
THEN THE LAST PERSON IS FROM...
SHE'S FROM TSURUGA...
TWITCH
CREAK

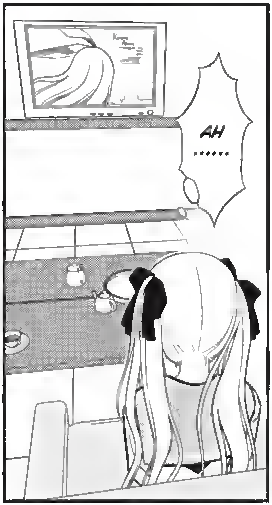
EH.....!?

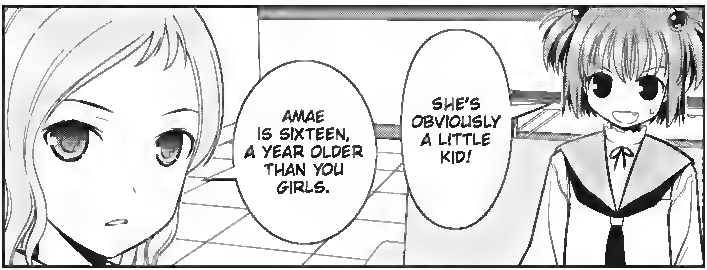
PEEK
ひょこ

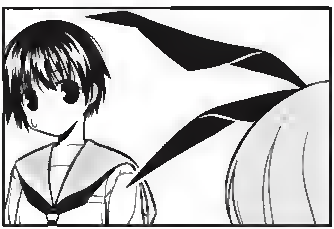

FWIP
ちょこん
EHHH
!?

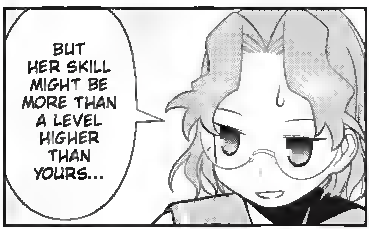

TODDLE
トテテ

THAT GIRL WAS KOROMO AMAE!?
SQUEEZE

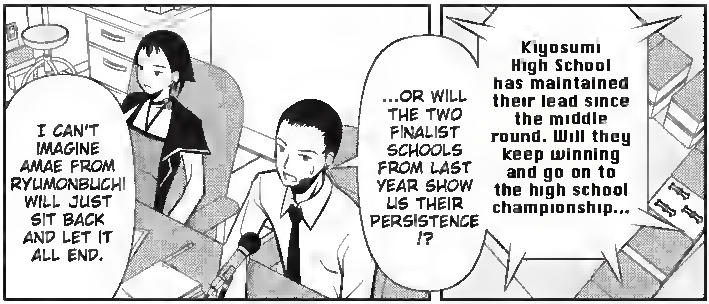

AH .....

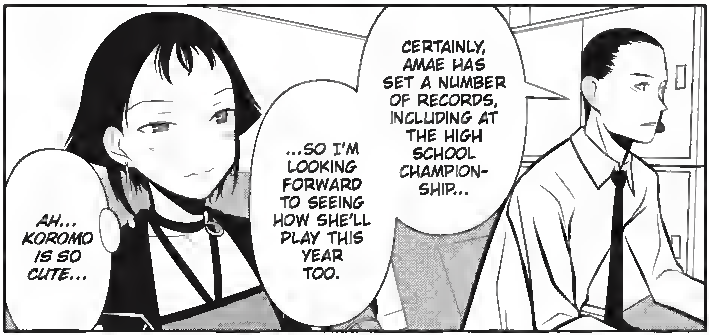

AMAE IS SIXTEEN, A YEAR OLDER THAN YOU GIRLS.
SHE'S OBVIOUSLY A LITTLE KID!

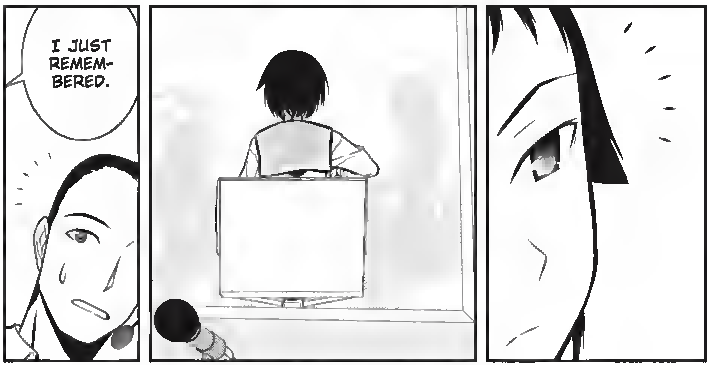



BUT HER SKILL MIGHT BE MORE THAN A LEVEL HIGHER THAN YOURS...

SIGH...
...WHAT WAS THAT CHILL I FELT BEFORE ABOUT?
THEN ...
TIME TO EXORCISE THIS DEMON!!
OKAY ...
Only the school that wins these last two east-south rounds will advance to nationals!
The final round begins —!!


I CAN'T IMAGINE AMAE FROM RYUMONBUCHI WILL JUST SIT BACK AND LET IT ALL END.
...OR WILL THE TWO FINALIST SCHOOLS FROM LAST YEAR SHOW US THEIR PERSISTENCE!?
Kiyosumi High School has maintained their lead since the middle round. Will they keep winning and go on to the high school championship...

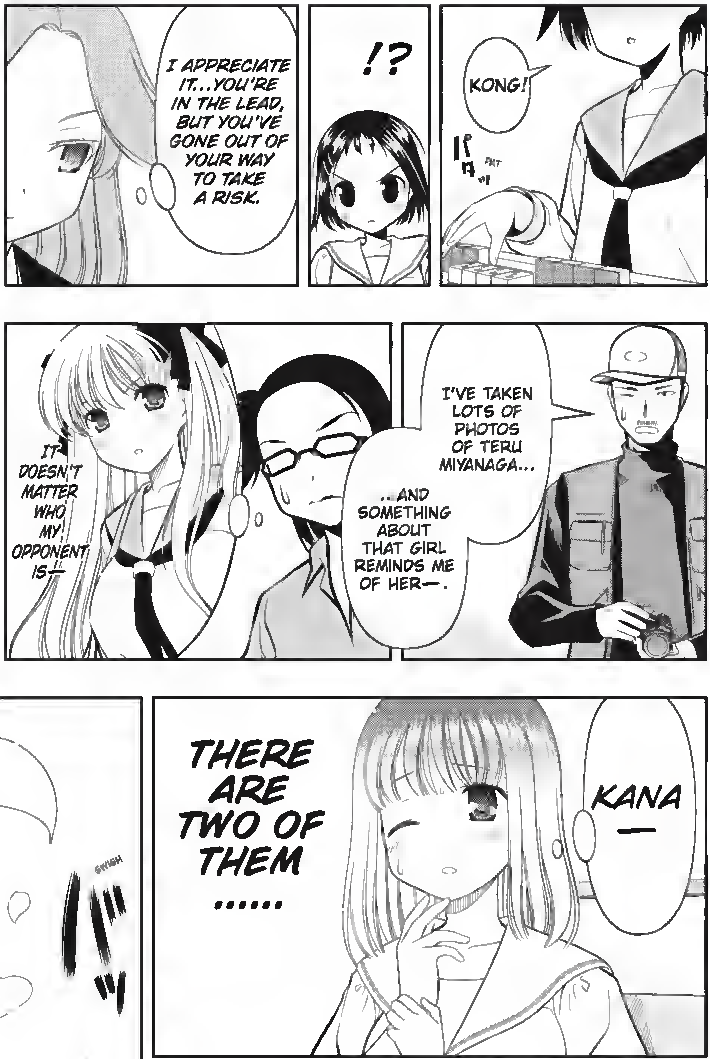

AH... KOROMO IS SO CUTE...
...SO I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HOW SHE'LL PLAY THIS YEAR TOO.
CERTAINLY, AMAE HAS SET A NUMBER OF RECORDS, INCLUDING AT THE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPION-SHIP...


I JUST REMEM-BERED.

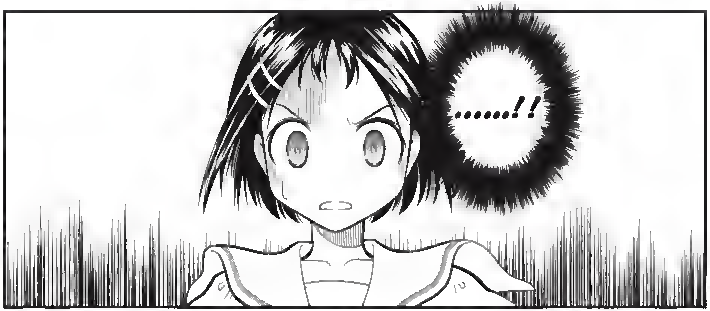
.....?
THERE WAS ANOTHER PLAYER WITH A SMILE...!
FIRST HALF OF THE ROUND— EAST HAND 1
ガヤ BUZZ
ガヤ BUZZ
Media and

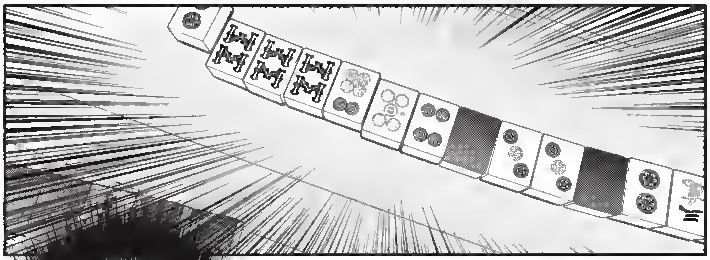
AMAE ALWAYS REFUSES TO DO INTERVIEWS, HUH?
THEN LET'S FOCUS ON KAZEKOSHI.
WHAT ABOUT KIYOSUMI!?
NOW THAT NODOKA HARAMURA IS DONE, NOTHING ABOUT KIYOSUMI STANDS OUT.
BUT THAT NAME, "MIYANAGA." MAYBE SHE'S RELATED TO TERU MIYANAGA.
NO WAY!
SO THAT GIRL WITH THE SHORT HAIR IS KIYOSUMI'S FIFTH MEMBER AFTER ALL ……

SAKI MIYANAGA
RUSTLE
UENO-SAN ENTRUSTED HER TO BE THE TEAM'S ANCHOR.....
THERE ISN'T JUST ONE—!!
!
RIICHI.


I APPRECIATE IT...YOU'RE IN THE LEAD, BUT YOU'VE GONE OUT OF YOUR WAY TO TAKE A RISK.
!?
KONG!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO MY OPPONENT IS—
I'VE TAKEN LOTS OF PHOTOS OF TERU MIYANAGA...
...AND SOMETHING ABOUT THAT GIRL REMINDS ME OF HER—.
THERE ARE TWO OF THEM .....
KANA—

THERE ARE TWO DEMONS AT THAT TABLE—!!!
RINSHAN KAIHO TSUMO!


.....!!



RINSHAN KAIHO— FLOWER ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP—!!?
ゾクッ
SHUDDER

HAND 35: DISTURBANCE

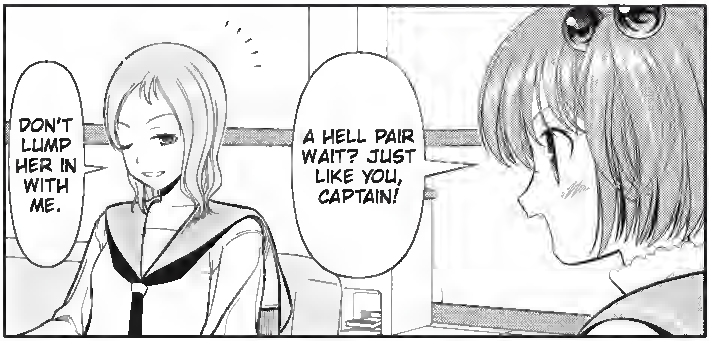
COME TO THINK OF IT, HER SCORE SHEET.....
IT'S A COINCIDENCE, BUT MIYANAGA ALSO WON WITH RINSHAN KAIHO IN HER FIRST TWO MATCHES YESTERDAY.
WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF THAT, HUH?
IF IT IS A COINCI-DENCE...
NO.
NO, NO, NO.
IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE.
.....
WELL? SHE HAS TO BE RELATED TO TERU MIYANAGA
EVEN IF HER HAND WAS COMING TOGETHER, ONLY A BEGINNER WOULD DECLARE A KONG LIKE THAT WHILE IN THE LEAD!

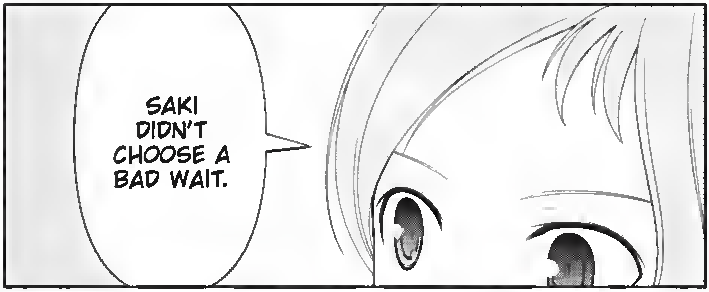
RECK-LESSLY DECLARING A KONG IS NO WAY TO PLAY!
!
EAST HAND 1
A BIG HAND IS COMING TOGETHER !!
I HAVE A FEELING I'LL DRAW THAT LAST TILE! AND IF I WEREN'T IN FOURTH PLACE, I'D CALL RIICHI TOO.
WEST PLAYER SECOND-YEAR, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' SCHOOL KANA IKEDA

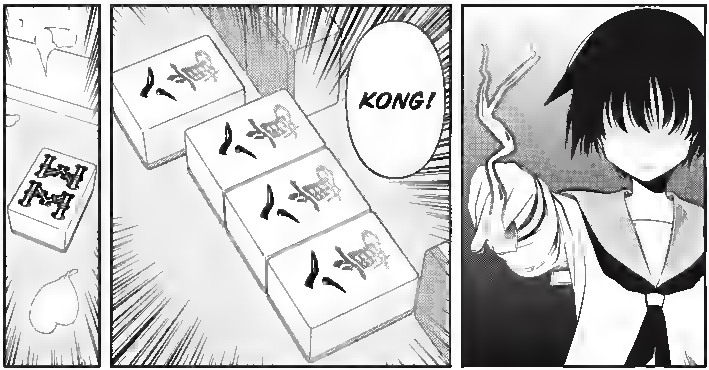
I DEFINITELY WANNA WIN THIS HAND!!
Ikeda from Kazekoshi Girls' is going for a nice baiman with a three-sided wait on a hidden tenpai! Can she rise out of last place!?
Miyanaga from Kiyosumi High School is also in tenpai! However, the five and eight of characters are winning tiles for Ikeda!!
Ah!

RIICHI.
Will Miyanaga discard into a loss after all...!?
HUH .....!?

A pair wait riichi on the eight of sticks —!!
Saki Miyanaga of Kiyosumi High didn't take the open wait!
On top of that, two of the eight of sticks have already been discarded!!
MM.....


DON'T LUMP HER IN WITH ME.
A HELL PAIR WAIT? JUST LIKE YOU, CAPTAIN!

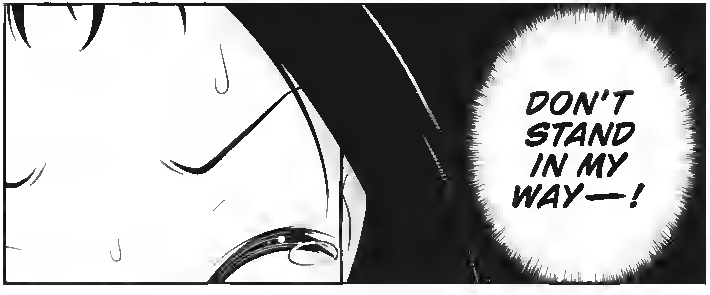

SAKI DIDN'T CHOOSE A BAD WAIT.


KONG!

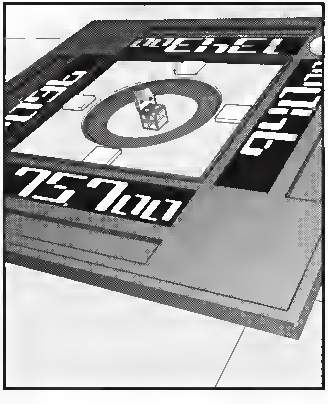
SHE CHOSE A WAIT THAT WOULD LET HER DECLARE A KONG.
RIN-SHAN KAIHO.
THAT'S NOT .....
SHIVER SHIVER
UNBE-LIEV-ABLE!!

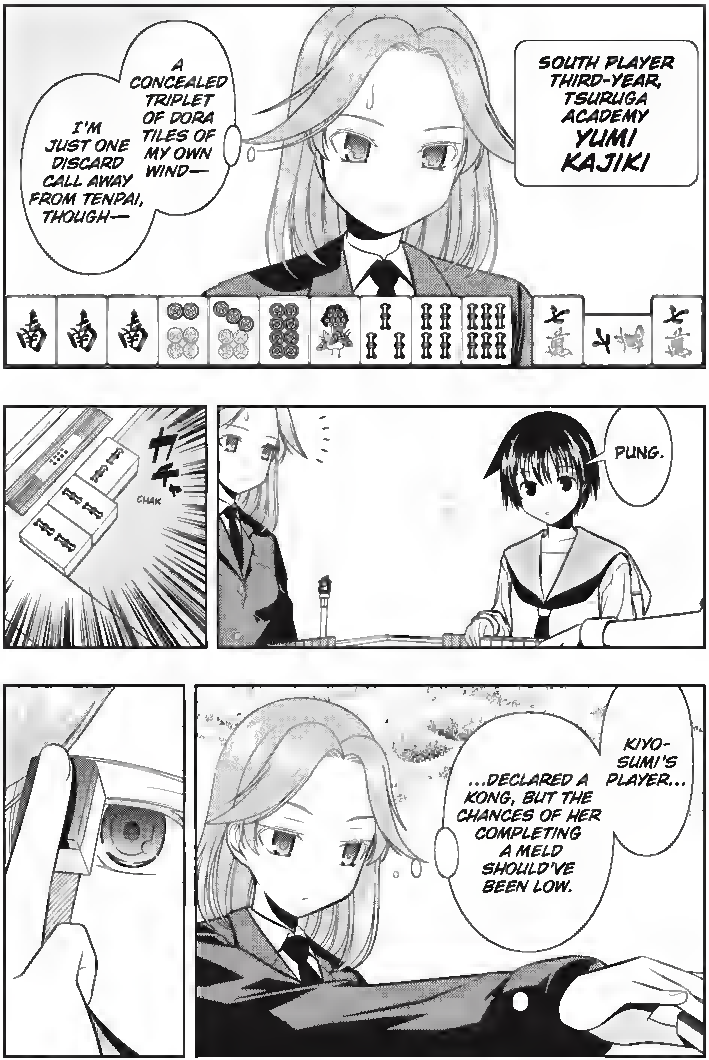
Two Rinshan Kaiho in a row!!
Something truly astounding has occurred!!

WHAT IS SHE —!?
WHAT THE HECK...?

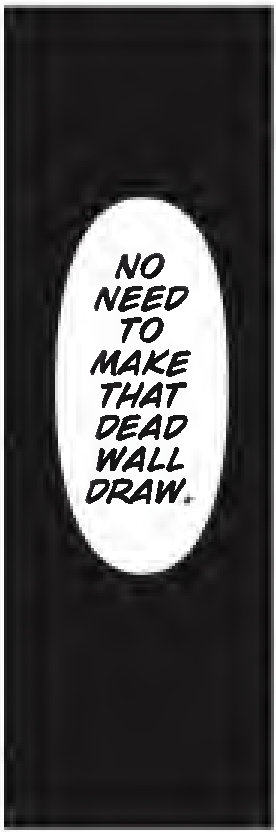

DON'T STAND IN MY WAY—!

EAST HAND 2, BONUS HAND 1

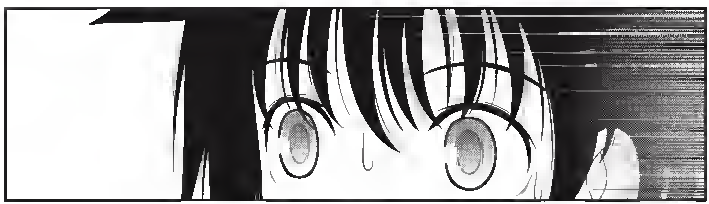



SOUTH PLAYER
THIRD-YEAR,
TSURUGA
ACADEMY
YUMI
KAJIKI
A CONCEALED TRIPLET OF DORA TILES OF MY OWN WIND—
I'M JUST ONE DISCARD CALL AWAY FROM TENPAI, THOUGH—
CHAK
PUNG.
KIYO-SUMI'S PLAYER...
...DECLARED A KONG, BUT THE CHANCES OF HER COMPLETING A MELD SHOULD'VE BEEN LOW.

HUH...? DID KAJIKI FROM TSURUGA ACADEMY—JUST BREAK UP HER CONCEALED TRIPLET DORA TILES OF HER OWN WIND?
NOW SHE DOESN'T HAVE A YAKU
TAP
ドン
KONG.
TWITCH
ピク
AGAIN!?
SQUEEZE
キュッ
GASP
. . .RIN-SHAN KAIHO—
THIS'LL BE MY THIRD—

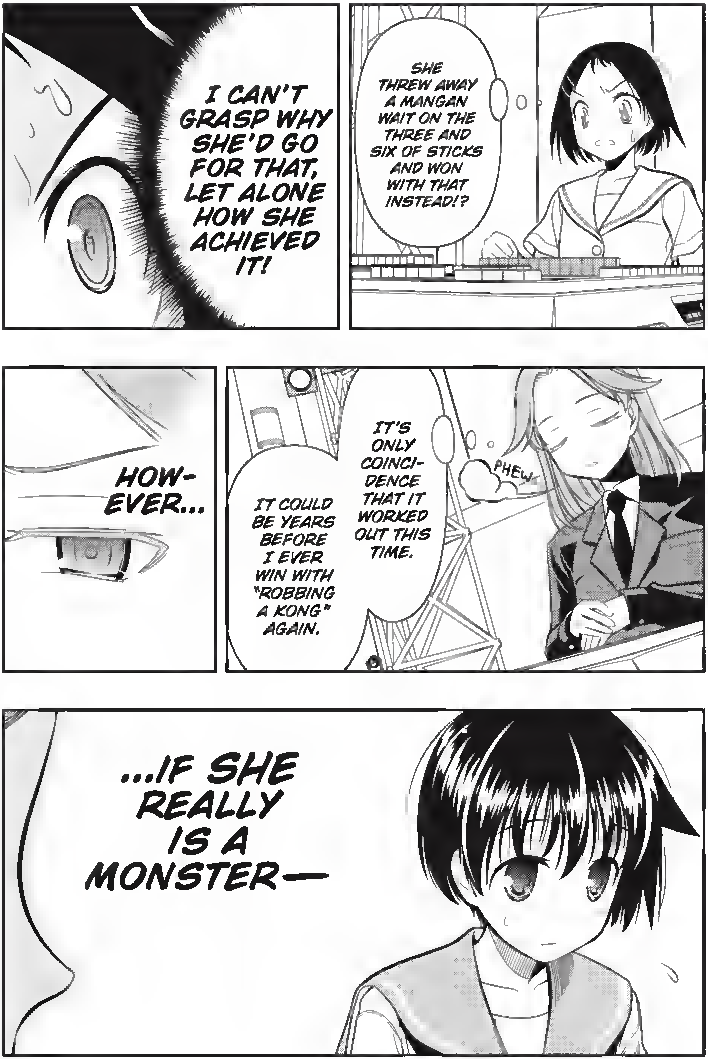

NO NEED TO MAKE THAT DEAD WALL DRAW.

THUNK
THUNK



ROBBING A KONG: COMPLETING A HAND WITH ANOTHER PLAYER'S KONG TILE. WORTH ONE HAN.

It's Robbing a Kong!!
ROAR
That yaku is even rarer than Rinshan Kaiho!
It's only East Hand 2, but things are getting crazy already!!
WAH ...


I CAN'T GRASP WHY SHE'D GO FOR THAT, LET ALONE HOW SHE ACHIEVED IT!
SHE THREW AWAY A MANGAN WAIT ON THE THREE AND SIX OF STICKS AND WON WITH THAT INSTEAD!?
HOW-EVER...
IT COULD BE YEARS BEFORE I EVER WIN WITH "ROBBING A KONG" AGAIN.
IT'S ONLY COINCI-DENCE THAT IT WORKED OUT THIS TIME.
PHEW
...IF SHE REALLY IS A MONSTER—

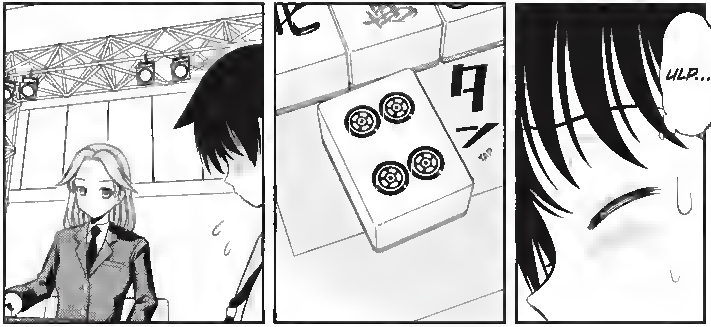
...IT WOULDN'T BE A BAD IDEA TO BAIT HER WITH FEAR—.
KYA-AAA-AAA!
SENPAI'S THE BEST, YO—!!
TWITCH
ビク
YIKES!
MOMOKO-SAN, I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE HERE...

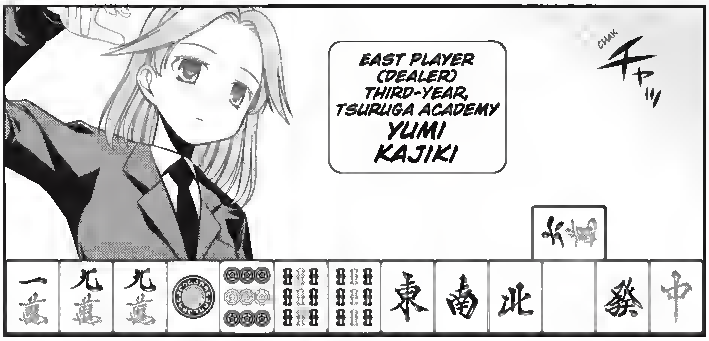
HAND 36: FULL MOON

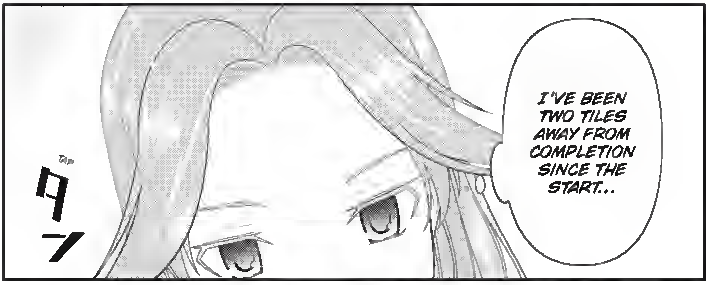
CONCEALED KONG: WHEN FOUR OF THE SAME KIND OF TILE ARE SELF-DRAWN, THOSE TILES CAN BE DECLARED TOGETHER AS A KONG OR QUADRUPLET

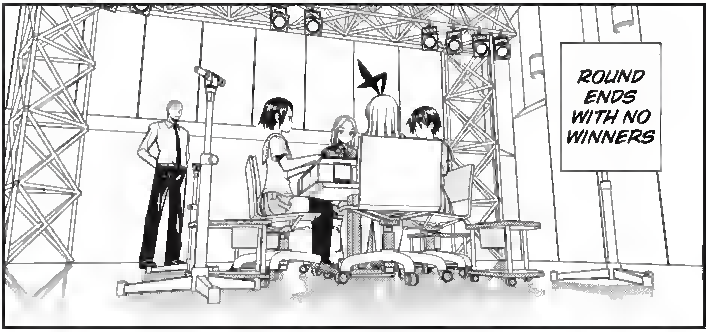
GASP
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
EVEN WITH A CONCEALED KONG, SHE CAN ROB IT...
WAH...
TWITCH

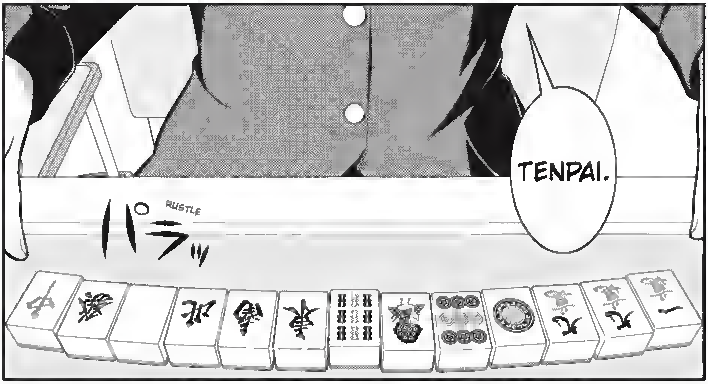
THIRTEEN ORPHANS: HAND WITH ONE OF EACH OF THE 13 DIFFERENT TERMINAL AND HONOR TILES PLUS ONE EXTRA TERMINAL OR HONOR TILE. SPECIAL RULE APPLIES WITH THIS HAND ONLY IN WHICH "ROBBING THE KONG" CAN BE USED TO WIN AGAINST EVEN A CONCEALED KONG.






I'VE BEEN TWO TILES AWAY FROM COMPLETION SINCE THE START...


ROUND ENDS WITH NO WINNERS

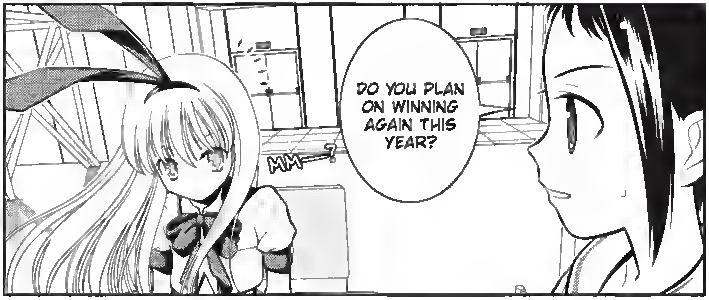

TENPAI.
RUSTLE

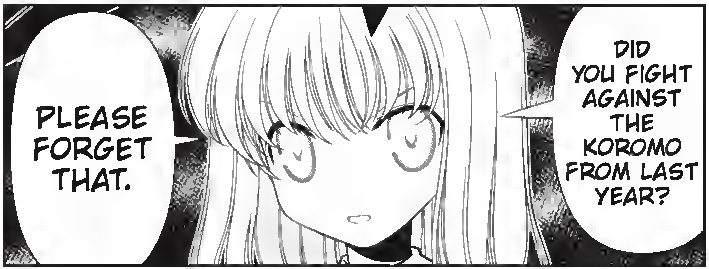
I WAS RIGHT. IT WAS ORPHANS!!
NO TENPAI.
I'M WATCHING THE DISCARDS CAREFULLY TOO.
THIS BORES ME.
I WAS EXCITED WHEN I HEARD MY KIYOSUMI OPPONENT WOULD GIVE ME TROUBLE...
...BUT YOU'RE LACKING, AREN'T YOU?
I'M RATHER DISAPPOINTED.
BUZZ

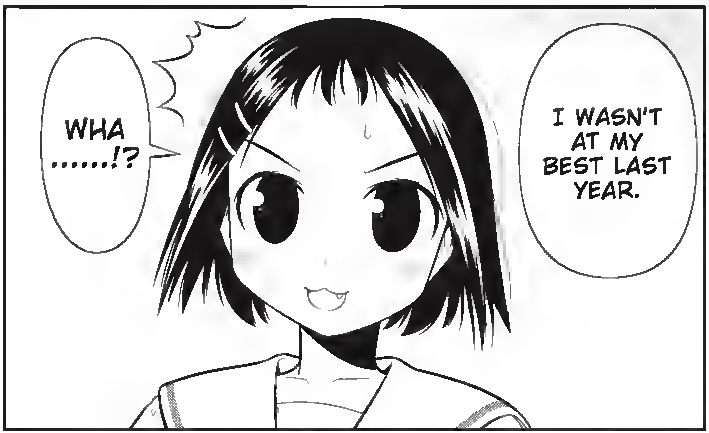
PERHAPS I SHOULD OPEN THE MAIN GATE NOW.
ゴゴ
FWOOO

THIS FEELING —!!
TH—
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER

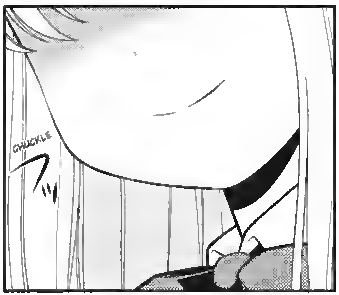
SHAKE
ガクガク
SHAKE
IT WAS HER AFTER ALL—!!
SHIVER
I SHOULD'VE GONE TO THE RESTROOM!
SQUEEZE

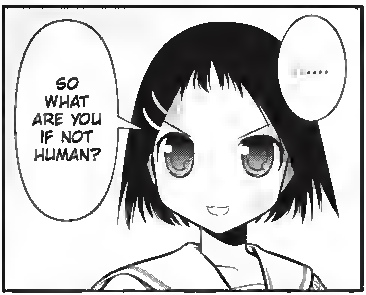

DO YOU PLAN ON WINNING AGAIN THIS YEAR?
MM—?


DID YOU FIGHT AGAINST THE KOROMO FROM LAST YEAR?
PLEASE FORGET THAT.

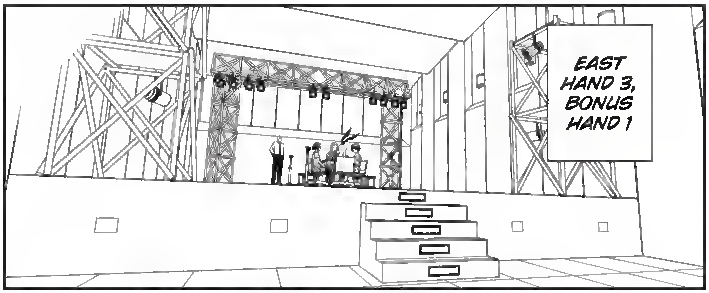

I WASN'T AT MY BEST LAST YEAR.
WHA .....!?

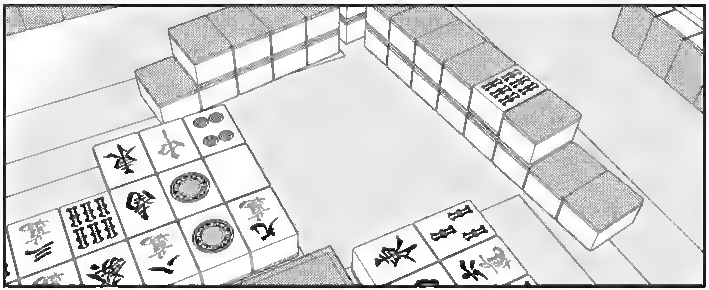
BACK THEN...
...I WAS STILL STANDING IN THE SAME *HUMAN* ARENA AS THE REST OF YOU.


CHUCKLE


.....
SO WHAT ARE YOU IF NOT HUMAN?

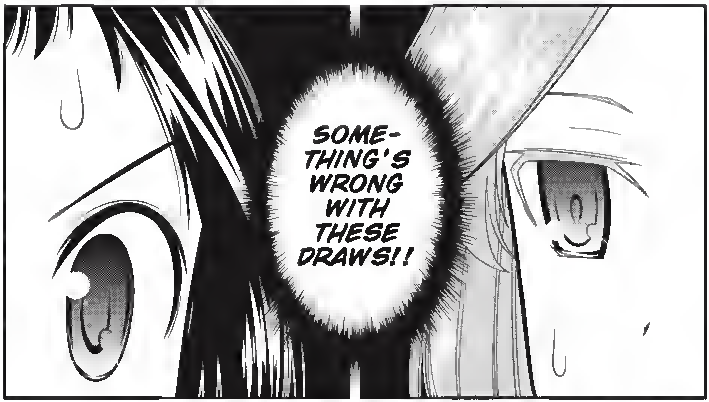
FIND OUT FOR YOUR-SELF.


EAST HAND 3, BONUS HAND 1



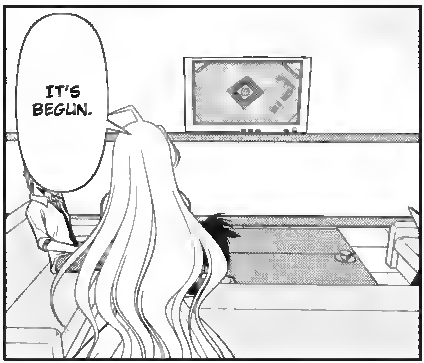
I'VE BEEN TWO AWAY FROM COMPLETION SINCE THE INITIAL DRAW...
I WANNA CALL, BUT I CAN'T!!

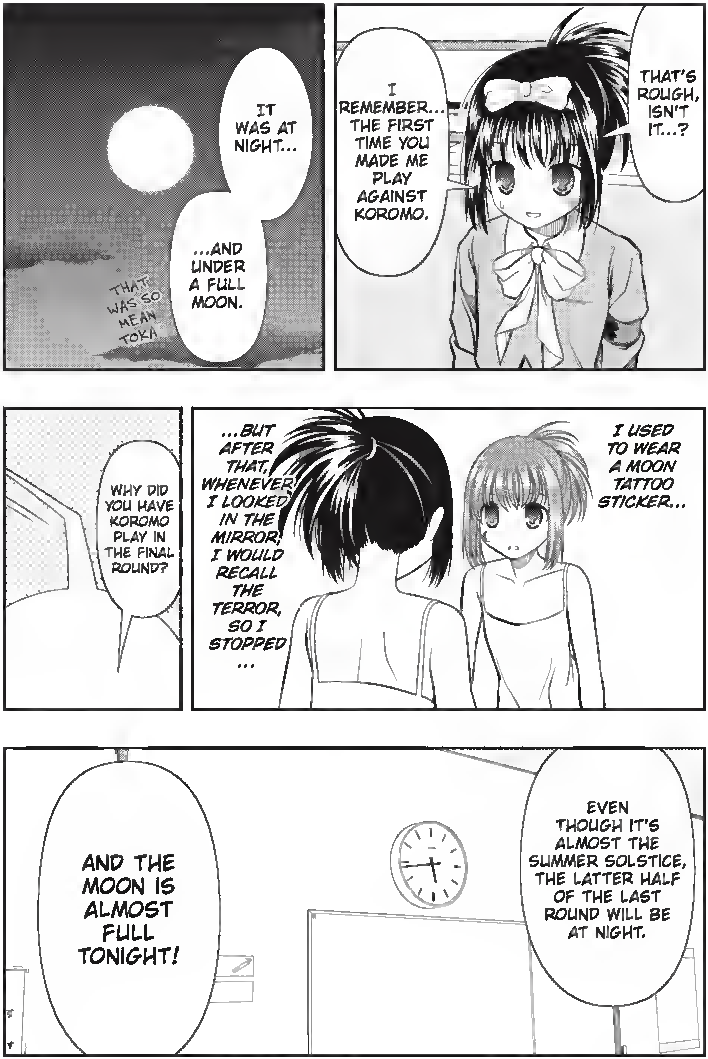
IT OFTEN HAPPENS FOR SEVEN OR EIGHT TURNS, THOUGH —
I JUST KEEP SITTING HERE, TWO AWAY FROM COMPLE-TION...

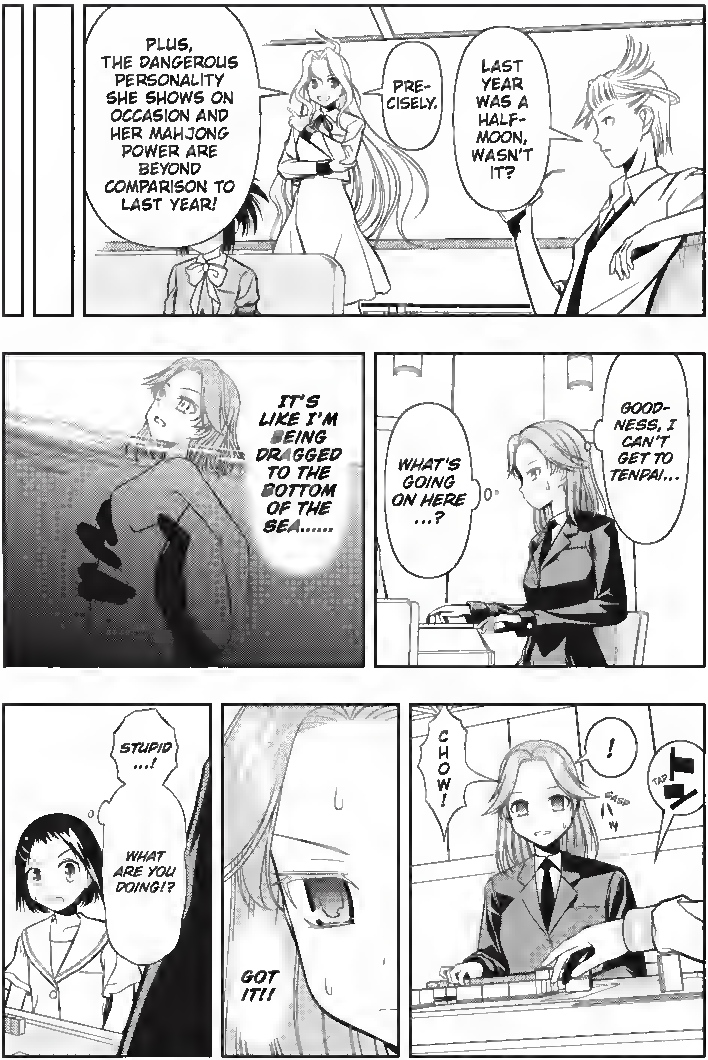

SOME-
THING'S
WRONG
WITH
THESE
DRAWS!!

Kyumonbuchi High School
Waiting Room

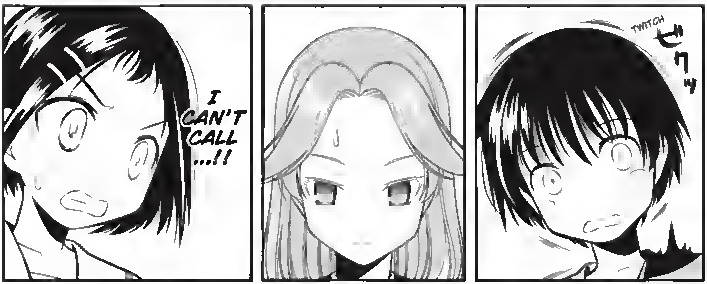
EVEN
WHEN
I PLAY
AGAINST
KOROMO,
MY TENPAI
RATE
TAKES A
NOSEDIVE.

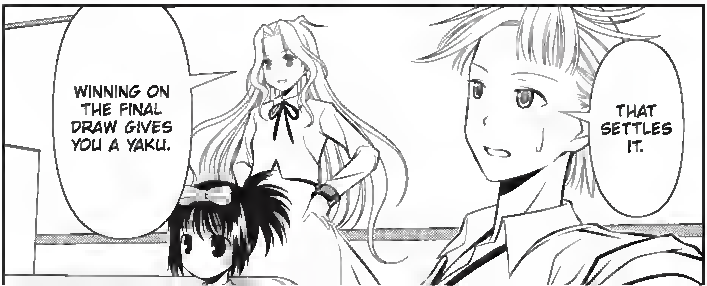

IT'S
BEGUN.

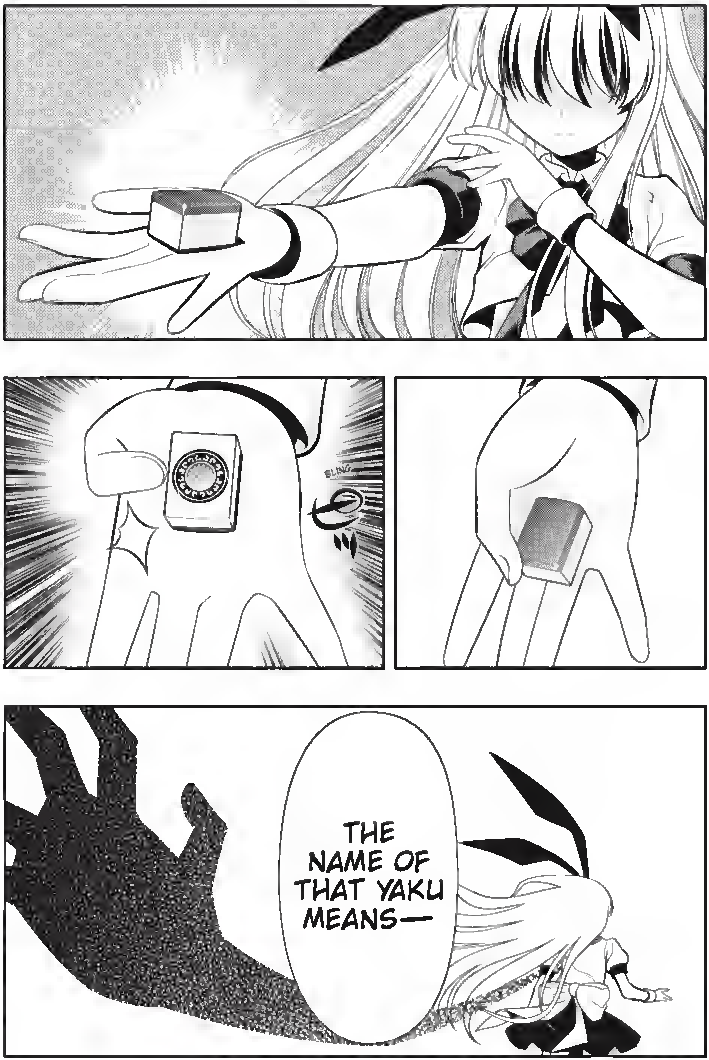

IT WAS AT NIGHT...
...AND UNDER A FULL MOON.
THAT WAS SO MEAN TOKA
I REMEMBER... THE FIRST TIME YOU MADE ME PLAY AGAINST KOROMO.
THAT'S ROUGH, ISN'T IT...?
WHY DID YOU HAVE KOROMO PLAY IN THE FINAL ROUND?
...BUT AFTER THAT, WHENEVER I LOOKED IN THE MIRROR, I WOULD RECALL THE TERROR, SO I STOPPED ...
I USED TO WEAR A MOON TATTOO STICKER...
AND THE MOON IS ALMOST FULL TONIGHT!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ALMOST THE SUMMER SOLSTICE, THE LATTER HALF OF THE LAST ROUND WILL BE AT NIGHT.


LAST YEAR WAS A HALF-MOON, WASN'T IT?
PRE-CISELY.
PLUS, THE DANGEROUS PERSONALITY SHE SHOWS ON OCCASION AND HER MAHJONG POWER ARE BEYOND COMPARISON TO LAST YEAR!
GOOD-NESS, I CAN'T GET TO TENPAI...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ...?
IT'S LIKE I'M BEING DRAGGED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.....
!
TAP
CHOW!
GOT IT!!
STUPID ...!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

RII-
CHI!


I CAN'T CALL ...!!
TWITCH
ピク

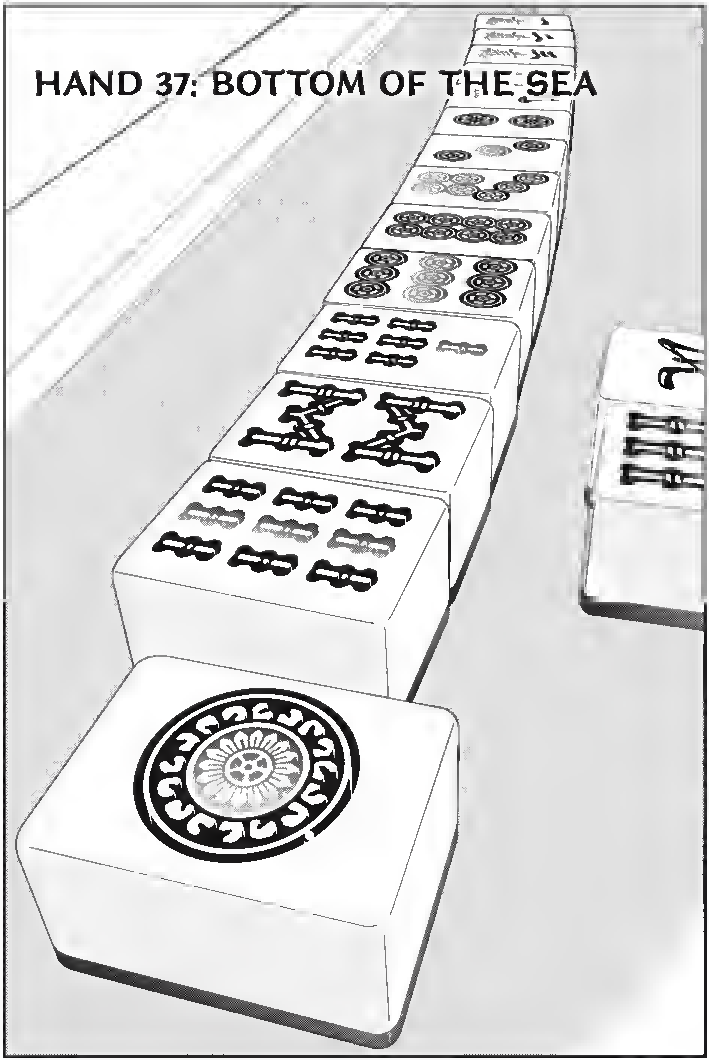

WINNING ON THE FINAL DRAW GIVES YOU A YAKU.
THAT SETTLES IT.

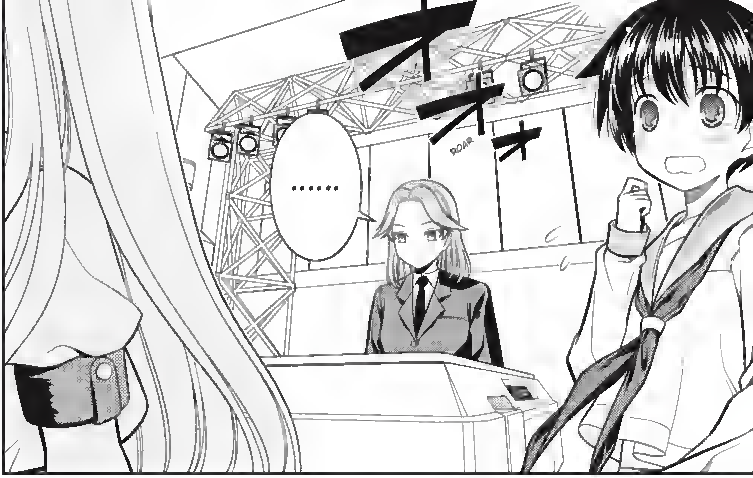

BLING
THE NAME OF THAT YAKU MEANS—

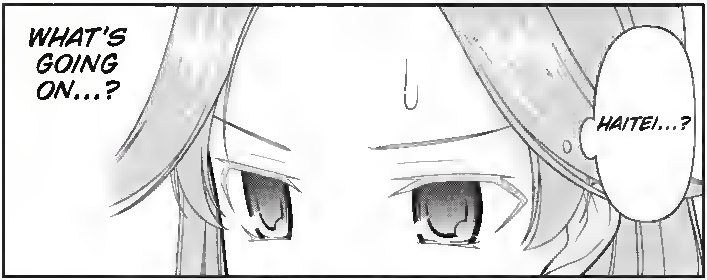
—SCOOPING UP THE REFLECTION OF THE MOON FROM THE SEA...!!
FWUMP

—SCOOPING UP THE REFLECTION OF THE MOON FROM THE SEA...!!

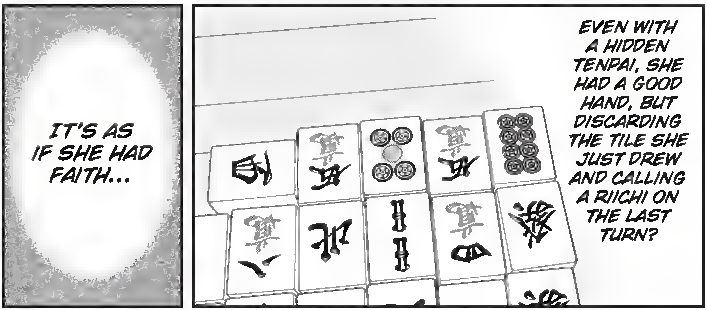
THIS IS KOROMO-AMAE—!!
HAI-TEI RAO-YUE!


HAND 37: BOTTOM OF THE SEA

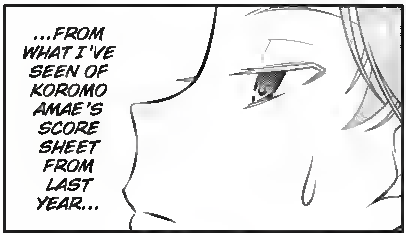


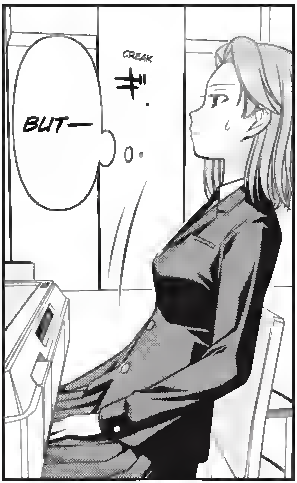


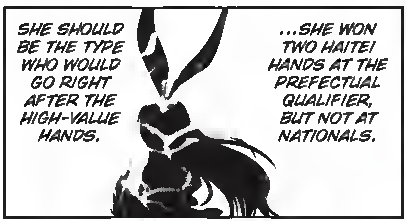
HAITEI RAOYUE (LITERALLY "SCOOPING THE MOON FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA"): A YAKU WORTH ONE HAN WHERE A HAND IS COMPLETED WITH THE LAST TILE ON THE WALL.

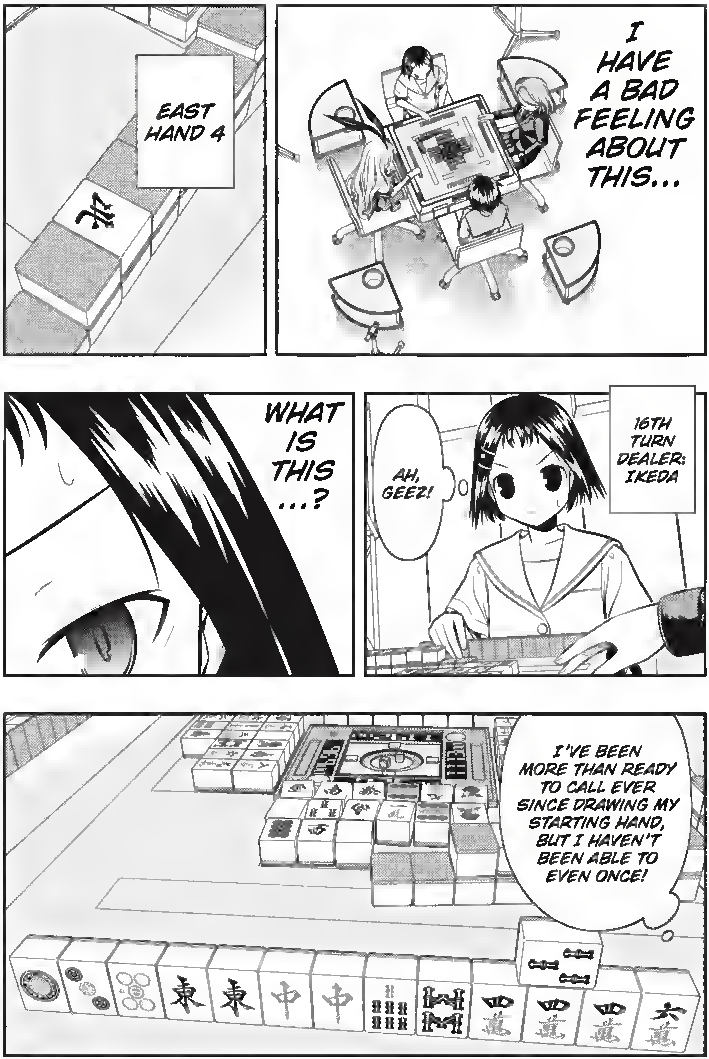

IT'S AS IF SHE HAD FAITH...
EVEN WITH A HIDDEN TENPAI, SHE HAD A GOOD HAND, BUT DISCARDING THE TILE SHE JUST DREW AND CALLING A RIICHI ON THE LAST TURN?

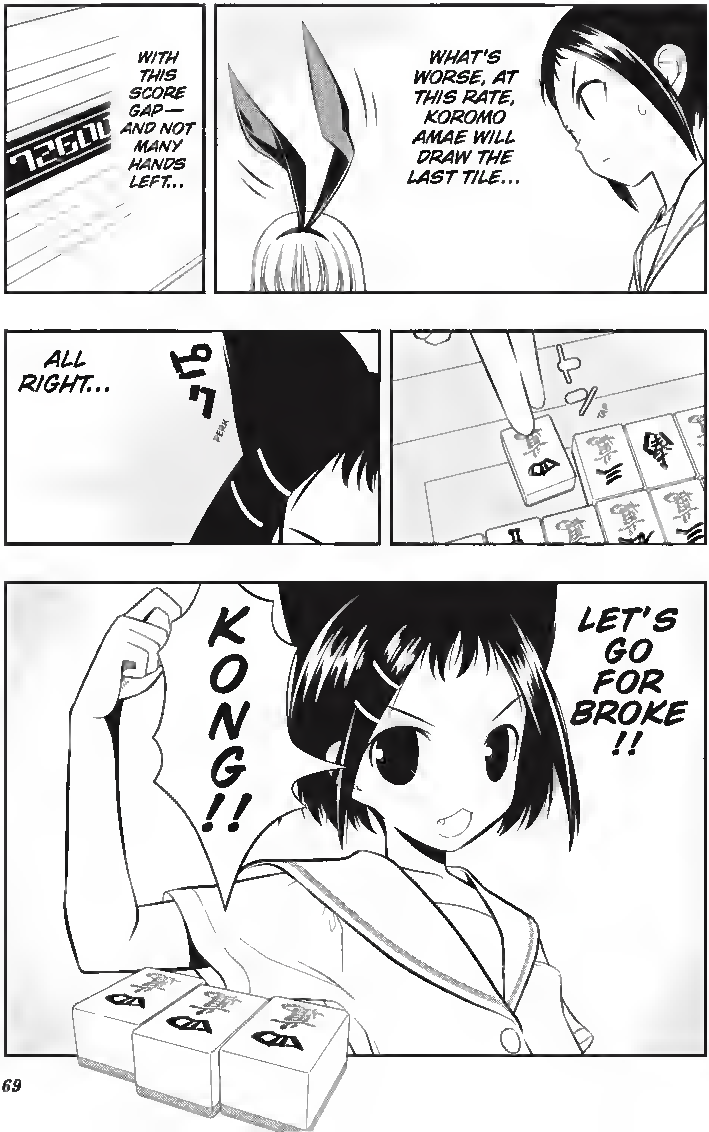
YAY!
...THAT SHE'D WIN WITH HAITEI —!!


...FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN OF KOROMO AMAE'S SCORE SHEET FROM LAST YEAR...


CREAK
ギ.
BUT—


SHE SHOULD BE THE TYPE WHO WOULD GO RIGHT AFTER THE HIGH-VALUE HANDS.
...SHE WON TWO HAITEI HANDS AT THE PREFECTUAL QUALIFIER, BUT NOT AT NATIONALS.

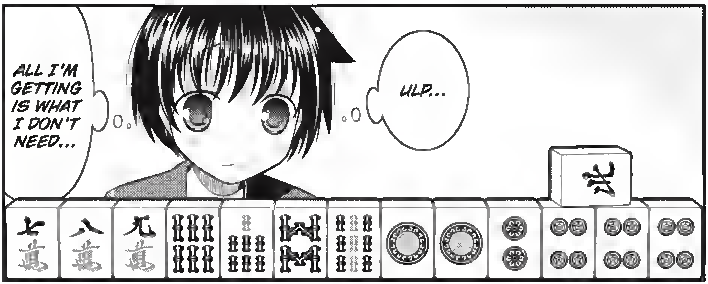

EAST HAND 4
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
WHAT IS THIS ...?
16TH TURN DEALER: IKEDA
AH, GEEZ!
I'VE BEEN MORE THAN READY TO CALL EVER SINCE DRAWING MY STARTING HAND, BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO EVEN ONCE!


WITH THIS SCORE GAP— AND NOT MANY HANDS LEFT...
WHAT'S WORSE, AT THIS RATE, KOROMO AMAE WILL DRAW THE LAST TILE...
ALL RIGHT...
KONG!!
LET'S GO FOR BROKE!!

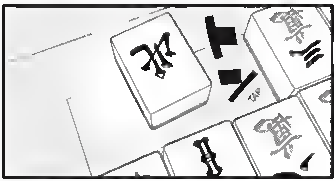
DEAD WALL DRAW
—
MM
HLP
I DOUBT THIS WAS MEANT TO BE KIYOSUMI'S WINNING TILE...
PROG-RESS!
CLACK
ONE TILE SHOULD SIMULTA-NEOUSLY DESTROY BOTH RINSHAN— FLOWER ON THE MOUNTAIN-TOP AND HAITEI!
DORA
DEAD WALL DRAW
LAST TILE
DEAD WALL
...BUT WITH THIS KONG, I MAKE THE HAITEI TILE PART OF THE DEAD WALL.
ADDED DORA
NEW LAST TILE
OLD LAST TILE
DEAD WALL

NOW I JUST HAVE TO WIN WITH MY HAND!!

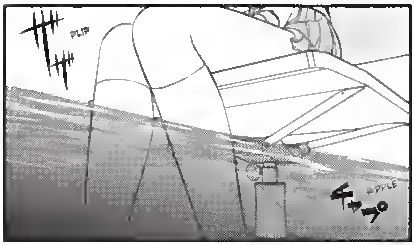
I KNOCKED KOROMO AMAE OFF OF HER HAITEI COURSE.


ALL I'M GETTING IS WHAT I DON'T NEED...
ULP...

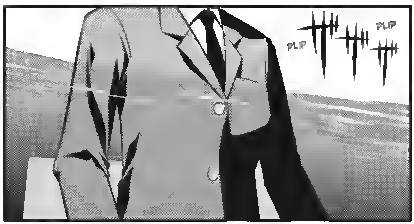
PUNG.

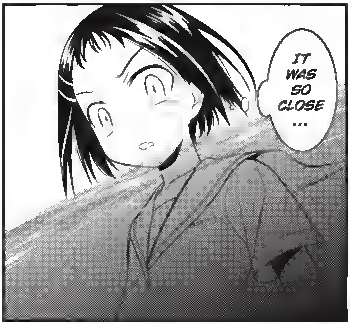


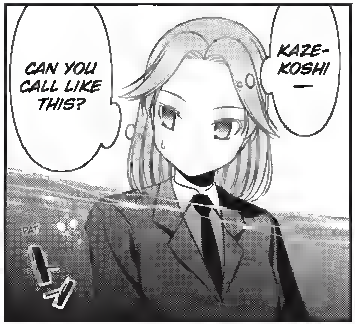
NORTH PUNG! NORTH PUNG!
PAT
パチ

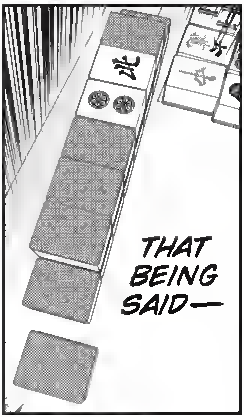

PLIP
PYLE

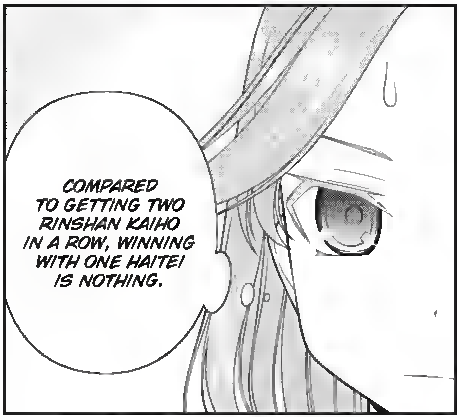
SHE'S BACK ON COURSE ...!!

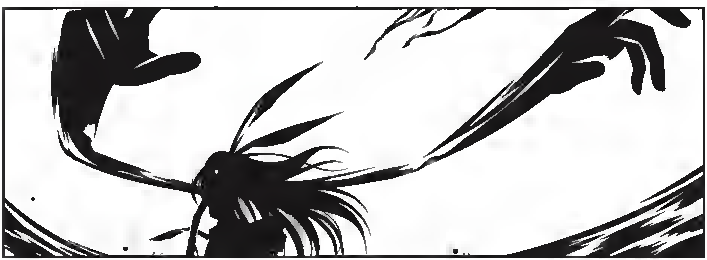

PLIP
PLIP


IT WAS SO CLOSE ...

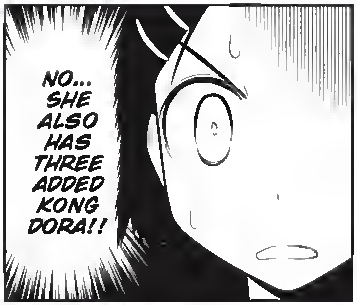

KAZE-KOSHI —
CAN YOU CALL LIKE THIS?
PAP


THAT BEING SAID—

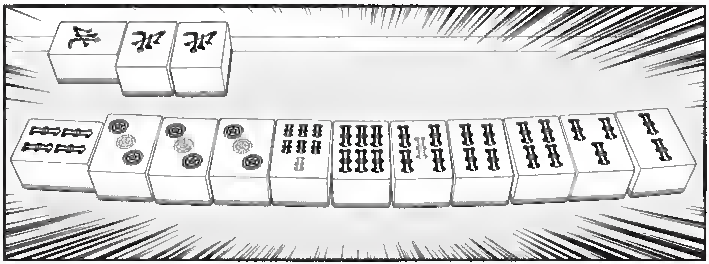

COMPARED TO GETTING TWO RINSHAN KAIHO IN A ROW, WINNING WITH ONE HAITEI IS NOTHING.

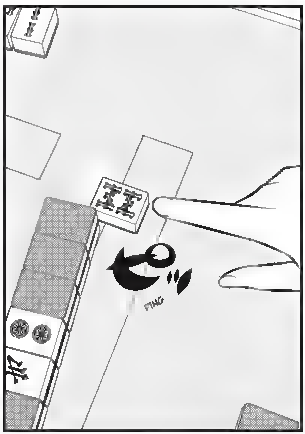


...IF SHE ALSO WINS TWICE IN A ROW WITH IT—
HAI-TEI RAO-YUE!
TSU-MO.


NO... SHE ALSO HAS THREE ADDED KONG DORA!!

TWO HAITEI IN A ROW ...!!
AND IT'S HAITEI-ONLY...!?

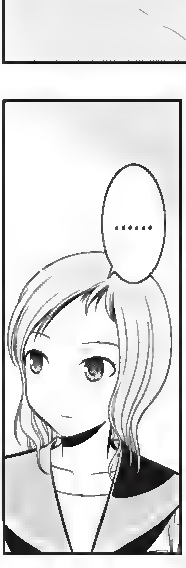




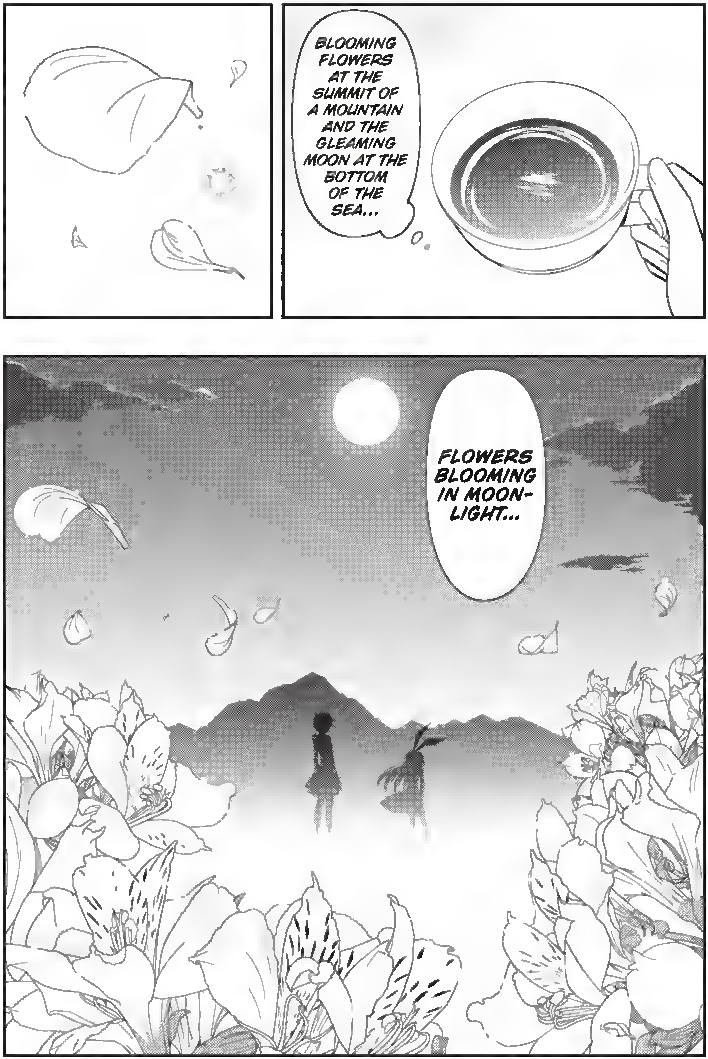
EXCUSE ME..
THEN IF I HADN'T DECLARED KONG, IT WOULD'VE PREVENTED HAITEI!?
SHOULD I HAVE IGNORED KIYOSUMI AND DECLARED PUNG INSTEAD ...?

PUNG WAS THE RIGHT CALL!!
Two Haitei in a row!!
オオオオ
Ryumon-buchi High School is back on top —!!
Ryumonbuchi High School +11100
113300
Ryumonbuchi High School +2300
117200
Tsurugo Academy -7100
Kazekoshi Girls' School -12700

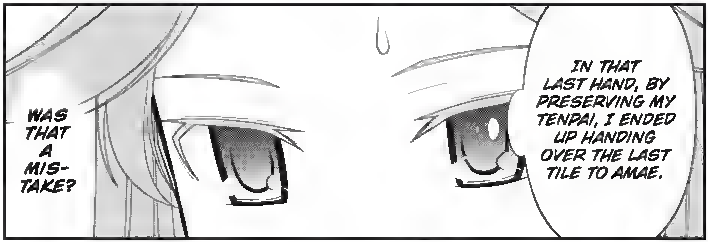
I'M SLEEPY.
SO FAR, IT'S BEEN RINSHAN, RINSHAN, ROBBING A KONG, HAITEI, THEN ANOTHER HAITEI, RIGHT?
BURP

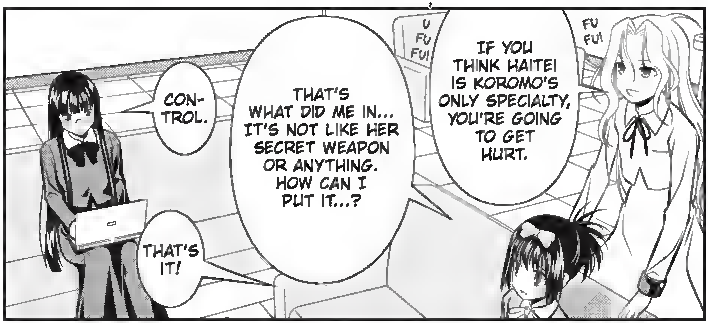

.....

HOW ENIGMATIC...
EVEN FOR A COINCIDENCE, THAT'S OVER THE TOP..

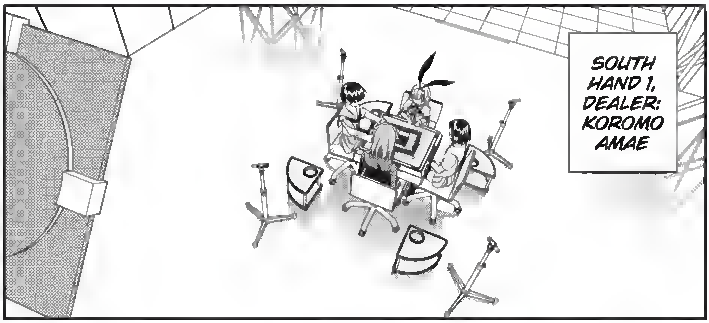

BLOOMING FLOWERS AT THE SUMMIT OF A MOUNTAIN AND THE GLEAMING MOON AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA...
FLOWERS BLOOMING IN MOON-LIGHT...

IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S BEEN ON GUARD AGAINST AMAE'S HAITEI, THOUGH...
KAZE-KOSHI'S PLAYER —
IKEDA, WAS IT?
DEDICATED DIGITAL PLAYERS DON'T PICK UP ON THAT SORT OF THING, THOUGH...
?
IT'S LIKE THE ATMO-SPHERE CONVEYS INFORMA-TION.
WHEN YOU'RE ACTUALLY AT THE TABLE, YOU DON'T NEED TO USE WORDS OR SPECIAL SIGNS.
...IS THAT WHAT IKEDA FELT AT THE TIME?
LAST YEAR'S TWO HAITEI WERE NO COINCI-DENCE ...

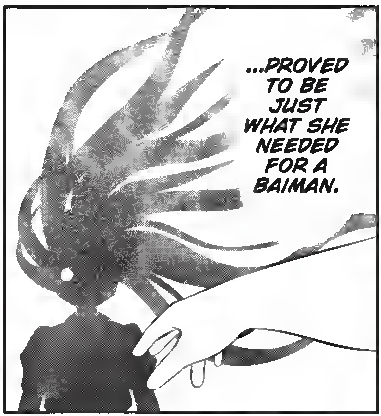

WAS THAT A MIS-TAKE?
IN THAT LAST HAND, BY PRESERVING MY TENPAI, I ENDED UP HANDING OVER THE LAST TILE TO AMAE.


CON-TROL.
THAT'S IT!
THAT'S WHAT DID ME IN... IT'S NOT LIKE HER SECRET WEAPON OR ANYTHING. HOW CAN I PUT IT...?
U FU FU!
IF YOU THINK HAITEI IS KOROMO'S ONLY SPECIALTY, YOU'RE GOING TO GET HURT.
FU FU!

AT THE TIME, I WASN'T FIGHTING A GIRL MY OWN AGE...
...BUT AN INESCAP-ABLE DESTINY.

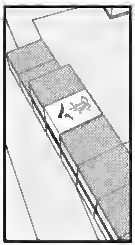

SOUTH HAND 1, DEALER: KOROMO AMAE

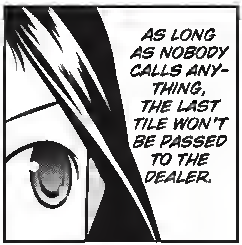
I'VE GOT A TERRIBLE SCORE...
INSTEAD OF BLOCKING HER HAITEI ..
...SHOULDN'T I TRY TO PUT TOGETHER A HAND THAT WILL LET ME MAKE A COMEBACK FIRST...?
I THOUGHT THAT LAST YEAR TOO.

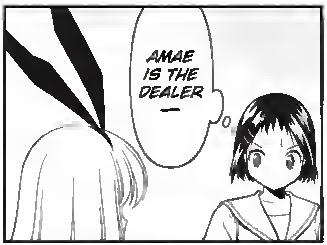

...PROVED TO BE JUST WHAT SHE NEEDED FOR A BAIMAN.

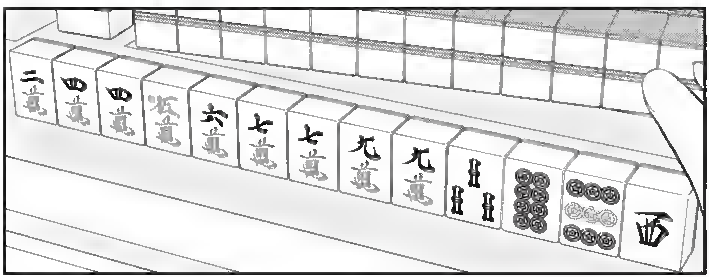
LAST YEAR, I MADE A CALL TO CRUSH AMAE'S HAITEI...
...BUT WHEN I WAS ONE TILE AWAY FROM WINNING WITH A STRONG HAND, MY DISCARD...
IKEDA, ONE YEAR AGO
ALL RIGHT!

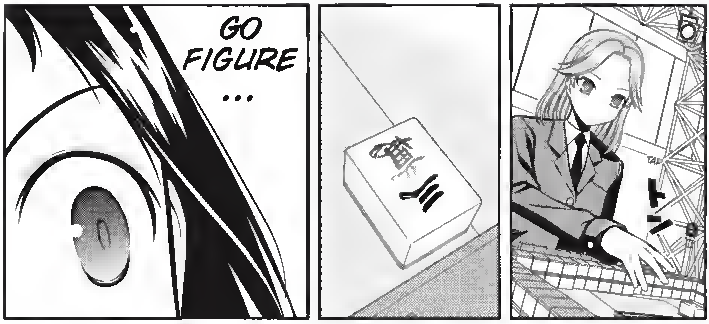
EVEN WITH A CLEAR FORK IN THE ROAD, BOTH PATHS LED TO DEATH.

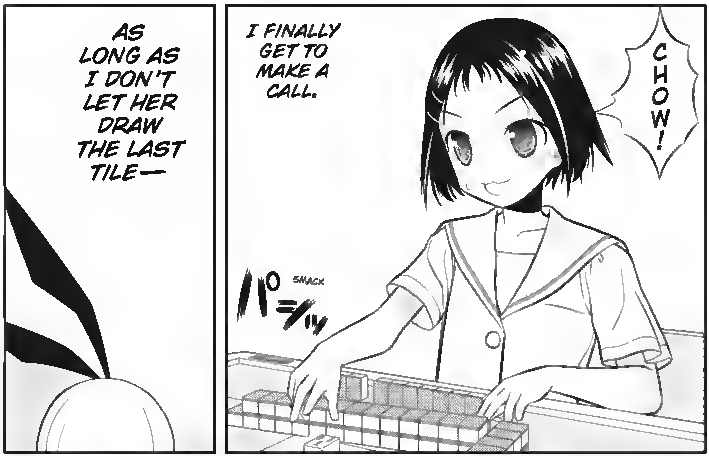



AS LONG AS NOBODY CALLS ANY-THING, THE LAST TILE WON'T BE PASSED TO THE DEALER.


AMAE IS THE DEALER —



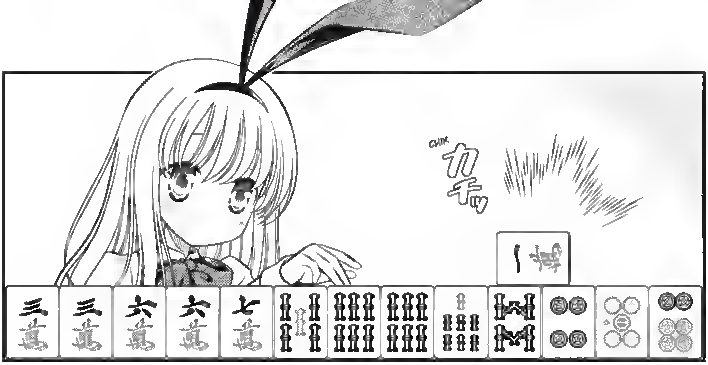

GO FIGURE...
トン

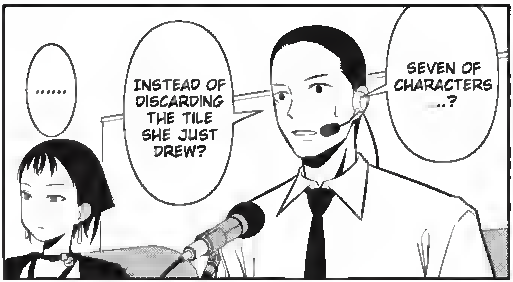

AS LONG AS I DON'T LET HER DRAW THE LAST TILE—
I FINALLY GET TO MAKE A CALL.
CHOW!
SMACK

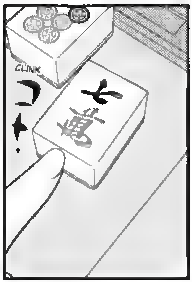
...A BAI-MAN!!
I'M GONNA WIN...

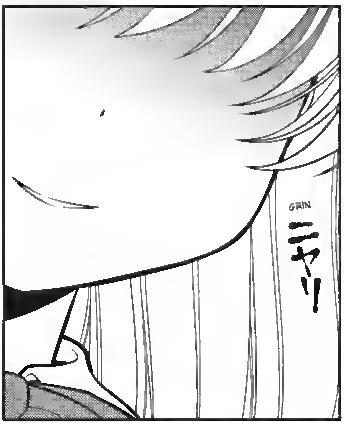
HAND 38:
CONSPIRACY

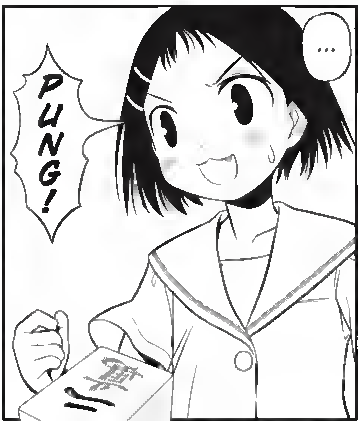
KACLACK
CHUK
I'VE DRAWN THREE CHARACTERS IN A ROW!
SOUTH HAND 1, NORTH PLAYER: IKEDA
.....
I'M ON A ROLL!!
SHUK

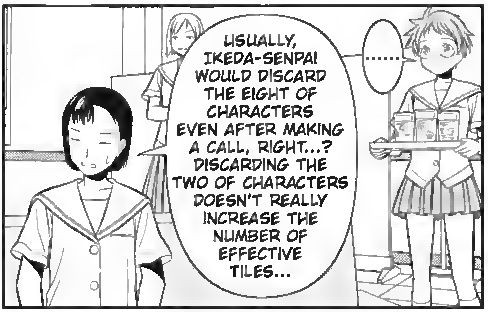

CLINK
カチッ

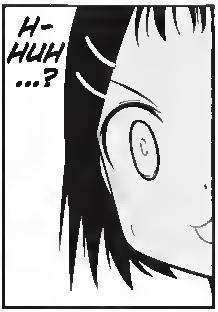

.....
INSTEAD OF DISCARDING THE TILE SHE JUST DREW?
SEVEN OF CHARACTERS ..?

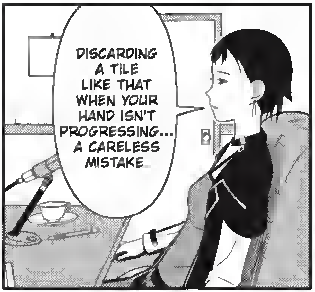

CLINK
コト
七萬

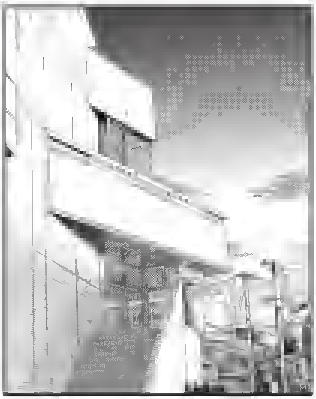

GRIN
ニヤリ

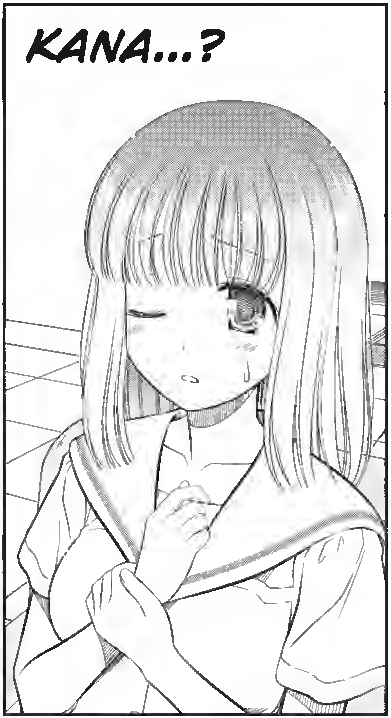

...
PUNG!

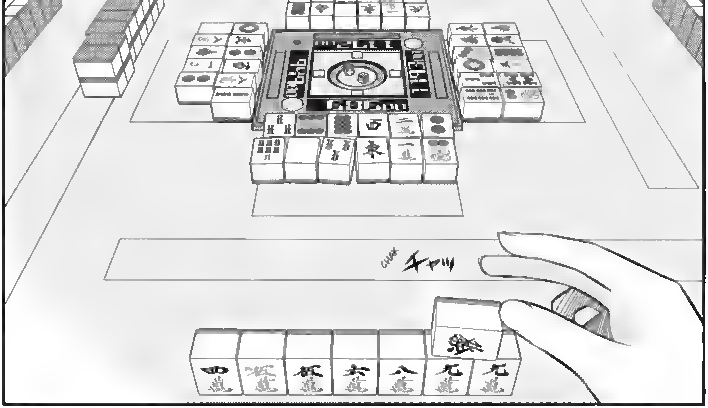

USUALLY, IKEDA-SENPAI WOULD DISCARD THE EIGHT OF CHARACTERS EVEN AFTER MAKING A CALL, RIGHT...? DISCARDING THE TWO OF CHARACTERS DOESN'T REALLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF EFFECTIVE TILES...
.....


H-HUH...?


DISCARDING A TILE LIKE THAT WHEN YOUR HAND ISN'T PROGRESSING... A CARELESS MISTAKE...

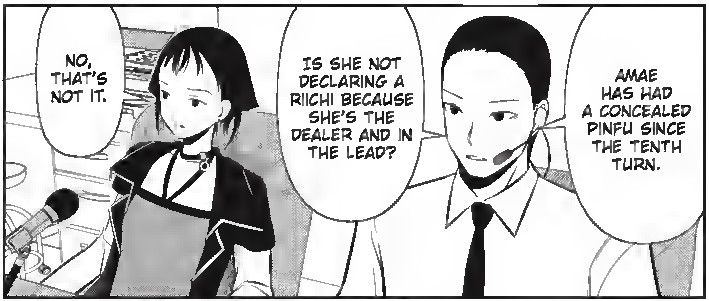


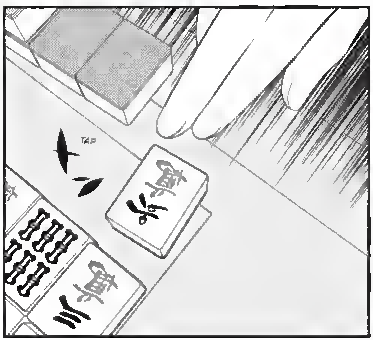

KANA...?


CLICK
ドヤッ!!

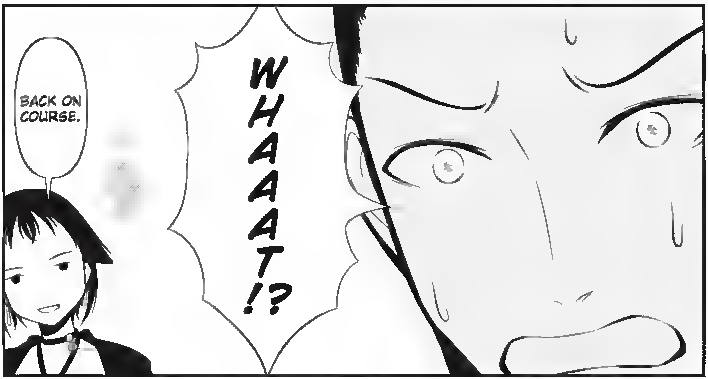
AM I JINXED...?
AFTER THAT, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CALL OR PICK UP ANY USEFUL TILES...
TAP
トン

THE LAST TOFU!


NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
IS SHE NOT DECLARING A RIICHI BECAUSE SHE'S THE DEALER AND IN THE LEAD?
AMAE HAS HAD A CONCEALED PINFU SINCE THE TENTH TURN.

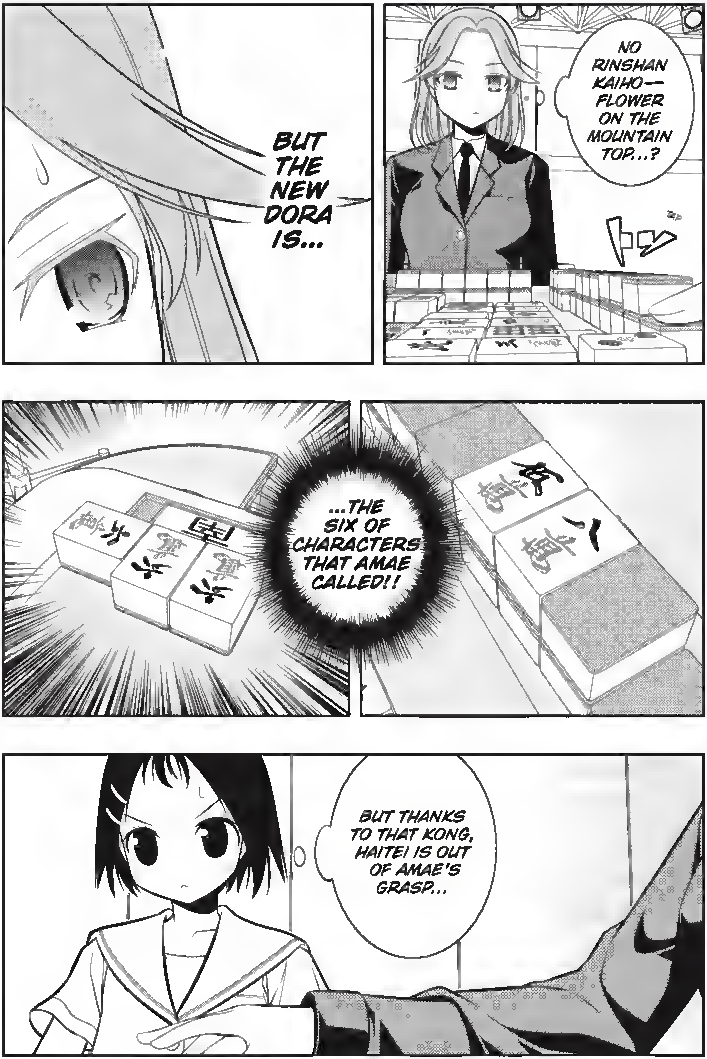


PUNG!

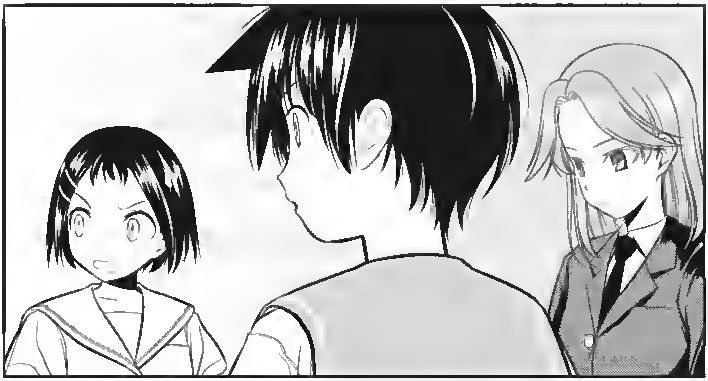

BACK ON COURSE.
WHAAAT!?

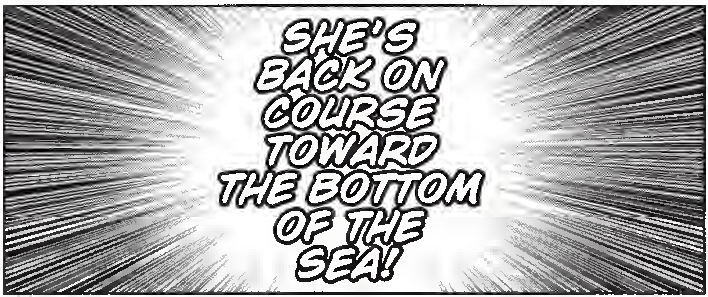
DISCARDING A CONCEALED PINFU WHEN YOU'RE THE DEALER, IN THE LEAD, AND DON'T HAVE ANY YAKU...
...IS SOMETHING HARAMURA OR I WOULD NEVER DO IN OUR LIVES.
BUT THIS IS HOW KOROMO WILL DRAW THE LAST TILE, RIGHT?
AT THIS RATE, THAT GIRL WILL GET HAITEI—BOTTOM OF THE SEA—AGAIN... I HAVE TO EITHER WIN THE HAND OR THROW HER OFF TRACK BEFORE THAT HAPPENS..
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET TENPAI AT ALL...
...BUT...
...BUT EVEN IF I CAN'T USE A NORMAL DRAW...

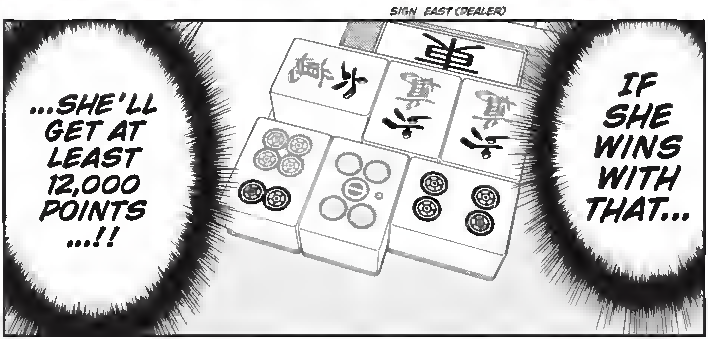
KONG!
...THERE'S A WAY TO FORCE A TENPAI...!
PAT
THIS IS MY FIRST TENPAI SINCE THAT GIRL GOT ALL SCARY...
THERE IT IS!


BUT THE NEW DORA IS...
NO RINSHAN KAIHO— FLOWER ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP..?
トン
...THE SIX OF CHARACTERS THAT AMAE CALLED!!
BUT THANKS TO THAT KONG, HAITEI IS OUT OF AMAE'S GRASP...

THAT DOESN'T MATTER... IT WON'T AFFECT KOROMO...
EVEN SO, I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING HELPFUL...
CHOW!
トン
THAT'S KOROMO AMAE ALL OVER

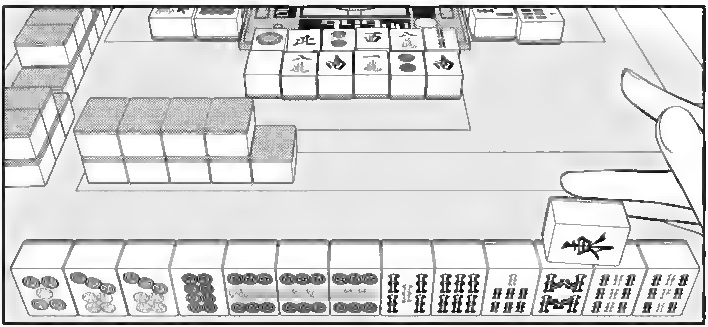


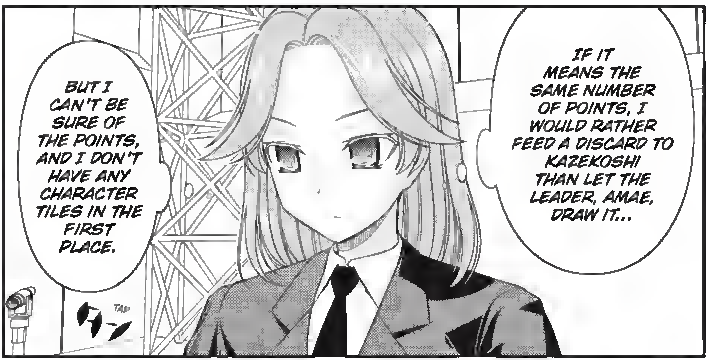

SHE'S BACK ON COURSE TOWARD THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA!

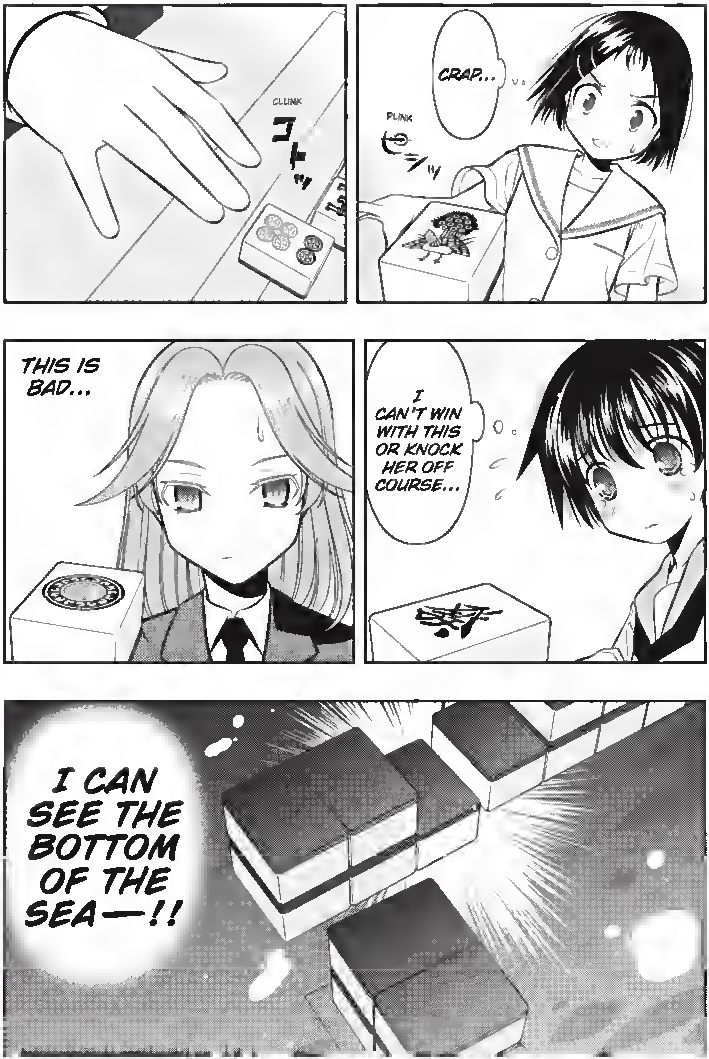

SIGN EAST (DEALER)
IF SHE WINS WITH THAT...
...SHE'LL GET AT LEAST 12,000 POINTS ...!!

I WISH SOMEONE WOULD AT LEAST DISCARD SOMETHING THAT I COULD CALL WITH...

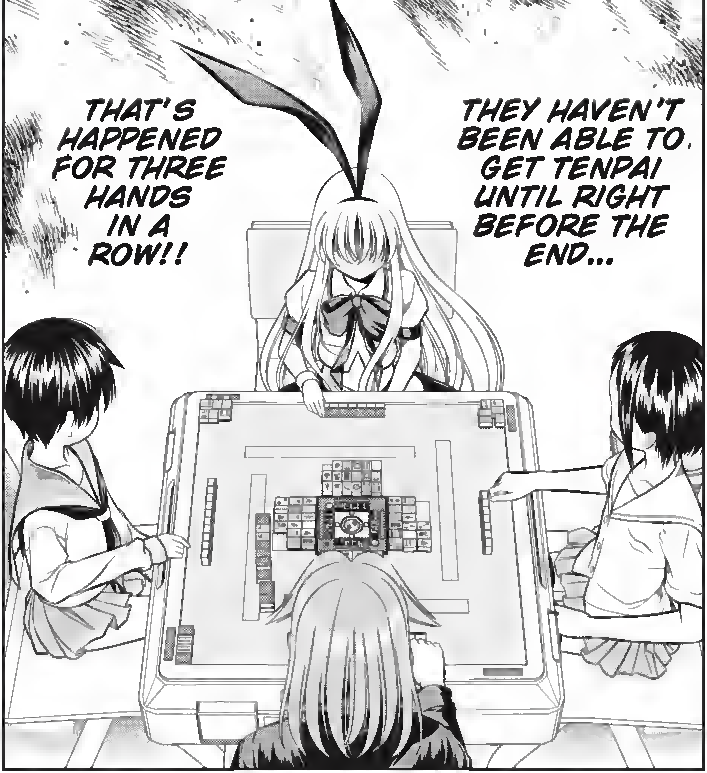
UH...



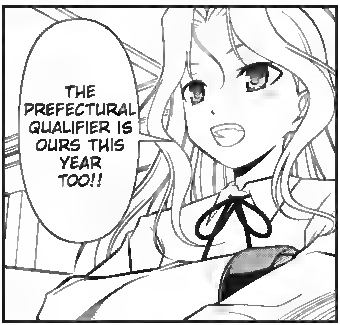

BUT I CAN'T BE SURE OF THE POINTS, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY CHARACTER TILES IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IF IT MEANS THE SAME NUMBER OF POINTS, I WOULD RATHER FEED A DISCARD TO KAZEKOSHI THAN LET THE LEADER, AMAE, DRAW IT...

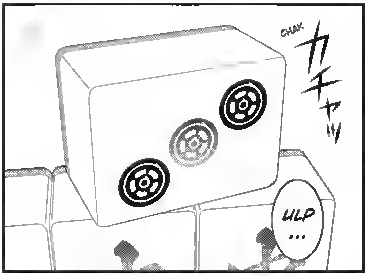

CLUNK
CRAP...
PLINK
THIS IS BAD...
I CAN'T WIN WITH THIS OR KNOCK HER OFF COURSE...
I CAN SEE THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA—!!

ULP...
PAFF
BUT FOR THESE PAST FEW HANDS...
. . .ISN'T IT STRANGE HOW ALL OF THEIR HANDS ARE STUCK EXCEPT FOR AMAE'S?
...THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN LAST YEAR.
A LOT OF PLAYERS COMPLAIN ABOUT BEING STUCK IN "TWO AWAY FROM COMPLETION HELL" OR THAT THEY CAN'T FORM A HAND...
...AND I CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH THEIR GRUMBLING... IF THEY GO ABOUT EIGHT TURNS WITHOUT GETTING ANY KIND OF A HAND TOGETHER.
BUT THAT'S NOT THE SITUATION HERE.


THAT'S HAPPENED FOR THREE HANDS IN A ROW!!
THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET TENPAI UNTIL RIGHT BEFORE THE END...

THIS IS THE DEBUT OF "FULL MOON KOROMO." WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNEW ABOUT HER BEFORE.

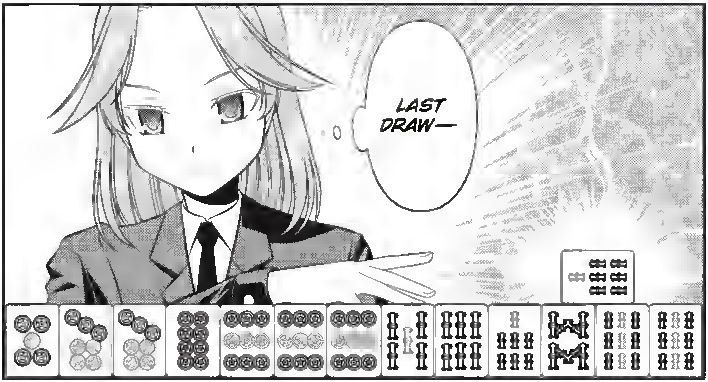

THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER IS OURS THIS YEAR TOO!!

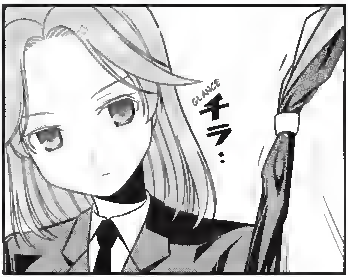

CHAK.
カチャ
ULP...

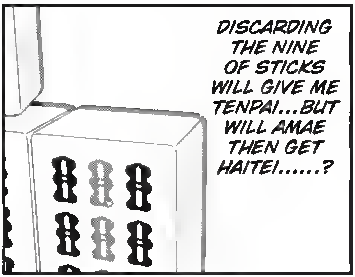
THE FINAL TURN...

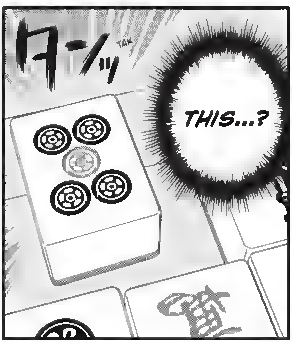
IF I'D GONE WITH THIS, I WOULD'VE WON IT...
TAP

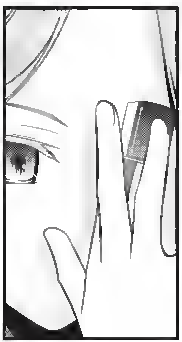
SOME-BODY, PLEASE GIVE IT TO ME...
PLEASE, DEAL INTO ME ON PURPOSE...


LAST DRAW—

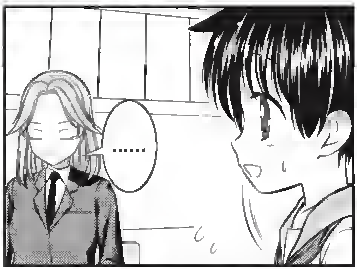

ちらっ
チラ：

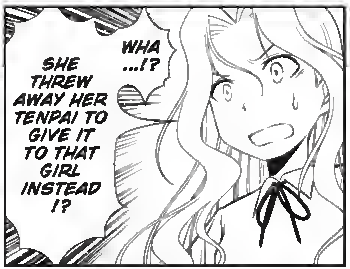

DISCARDING THE NINE OF STICKS WILL GIVE ME TENPAI...BUT WILL AMAE THEN GET HAITEI.....?


ターン
THIS...?

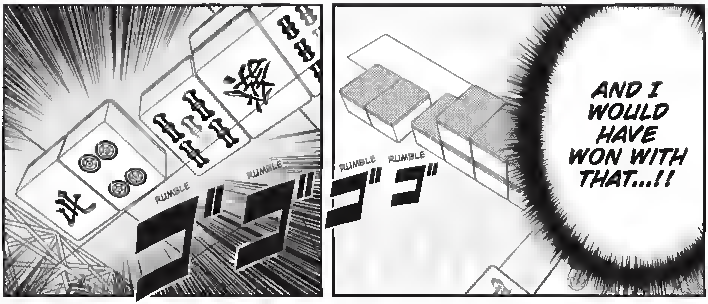


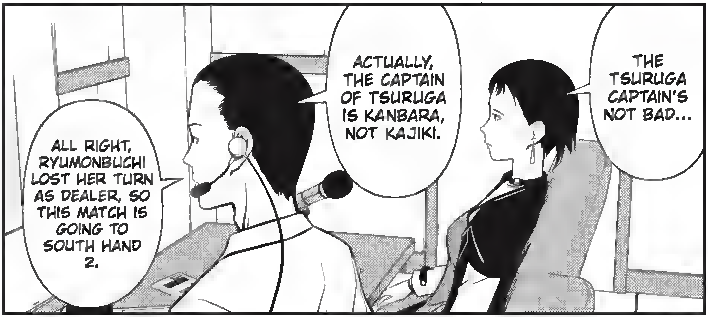
R-RON!
2,000 POINTS!!
.....!


.....


SHE THREW AWAY HER TENPAI TO GIVE IT TO THAT GIRL INSTEAD!?
WHA ...!?

...BUT KOROMO LIKES BEING A BIG DEAL!
KOROMO'S TURN AS DEALER IS OVER...


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
AND I WOULD HAVE WON WITH THAT...!!


ALL RIGHT, RYUMONBUCHI LOST HER TURN AS DEALER, SO THIS MATCH IS GOING TO SOUTH HAND 2.
ACTUALLY, THE CAPTAIN OF TSURUGA IS KANBARA, NOT KAJIKI.
THE TSURUGA CAPTAIN'S NOT BAD...

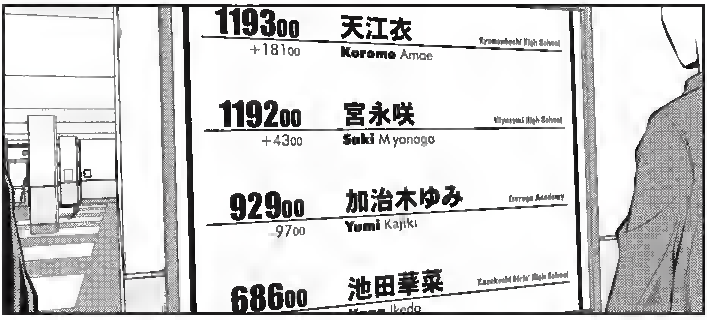
WA HA HA!
I KNOW, RIGHT?
Wait... the captain... her!?

HAND 39: FATE

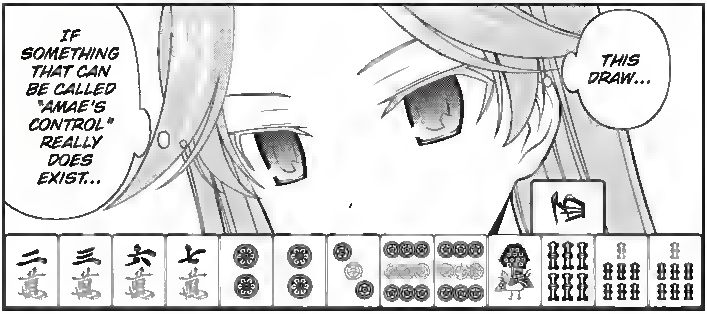
ROAR
BITTER ENEMIES IN THE SAME BOAT? EVEN WITH A TERRITORIAL ADVANTAGE, YOU CAN'T BEAT A UNIFIED PEOPLE?
YOU THINK A COMBINED EFFORT CAN STOP ME...!?
HMPH!
THIS RABBLE...

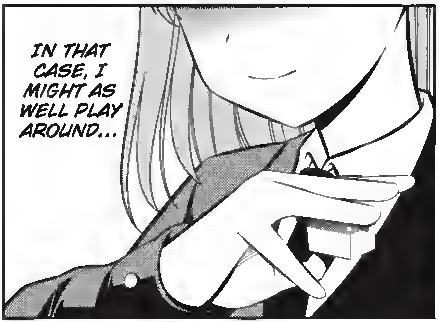
LOWLY PEONS !!
WHOOSH
KYA!
KYA!
.....
IT'S BECAUSE KIYOSUMI USED THAT KONG TO BUILD HER HAND, AND TSURUGA FIGURED OUT WHAT SHE NEEDED.
GRACIOUS. I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY EVEN BOTHER STRUGGLING.
AH...

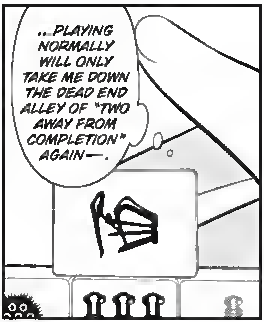
THE CURTAIN OF NIGHT IS FALLING ……

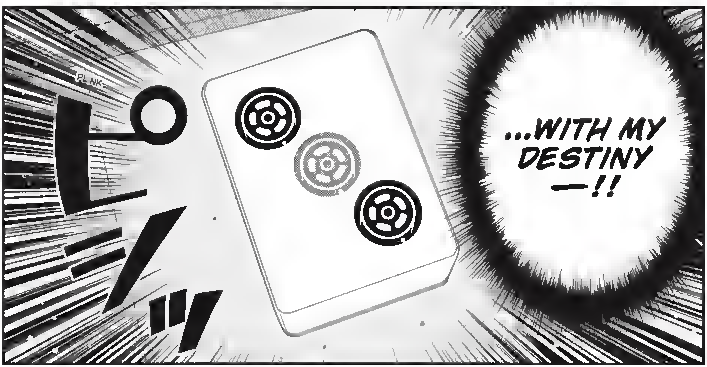

1193 00
+181 00
天江衣
Kuromeboshi High School
Kurome Amae
1192 00
+43 00
宮永咲
Miyanoyai High School
Saki Miyanaga
929 00
97 00
加治木ゆみ
Enrenga Academy
Yumi Kajiki
686 00
池田華菜
Kazekoshi Girls' High School

SOUTH HAND 2

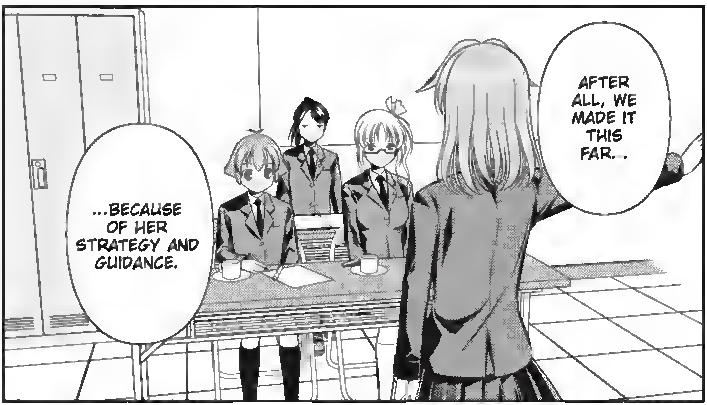

IF SOMETHING THAT CAN BE CALLED "AMAE'S CONTROL" REALLY DOES EXIST...
THIS DRAW...


IN THAT CASE, I MIGHT AS WELL PLAY AROUND...


...PLAYING NORMALLY WILL ONLY TAKE ME DOWN THE DEAD END ALLEY OF "TWO AWAY FROM COMPLETION" AGAIN—.


...WITH MY DESTINY —!!

MM... SHE'S SUDDENLY GOING AGAINST THEORY.
WA HA HA!
WELL, I'M SURE YUMI-CHIN HAS SOMETHING IN MIND.
JUST LEAVE IT TO HER.

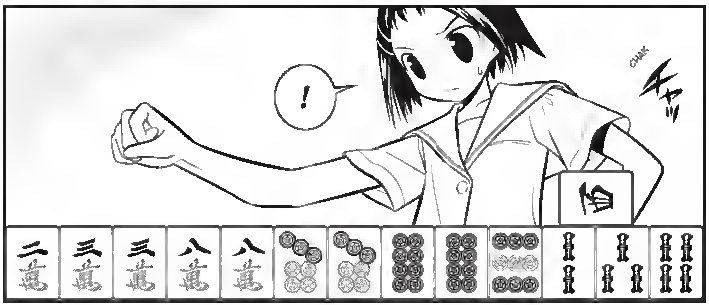

AFTER ALL, WE MADE IT THIS FAR. .
...BECAUSE OF HER STRATEGY AND GUIDANCE.

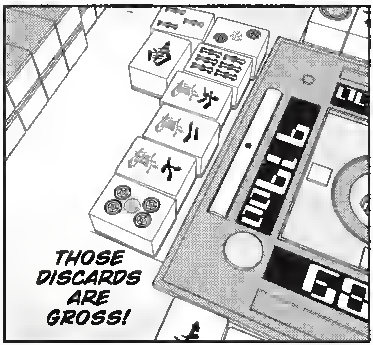
NOW YUMI-CHIN SHOULD JUST ENJOY HERSELF AS SHE LIKES...
...AND ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT FOR HER TO COME BACK!

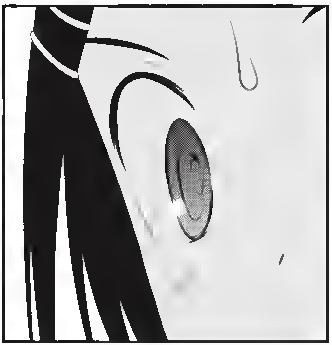
TEN-PAI!!
I CAN DO THIS —!!
RIICHI!
I'LL PROVE THAT HER CONTROL ISN'T PERFECT ...!!

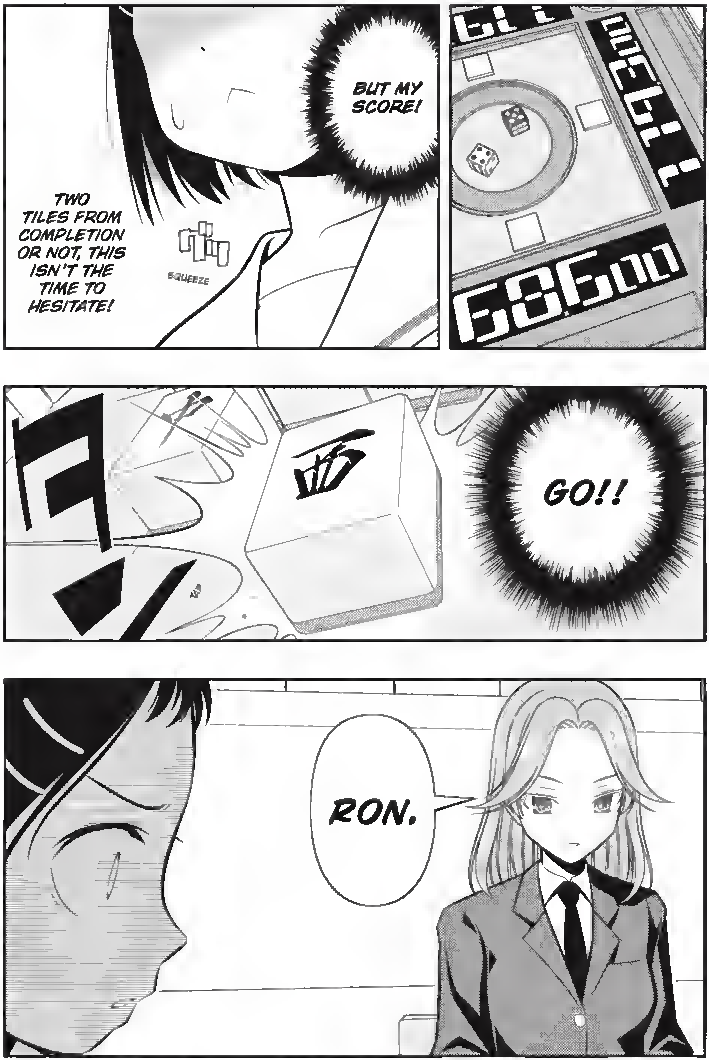
SO YOU CAN GET A NORMAL TENPAI ...!!

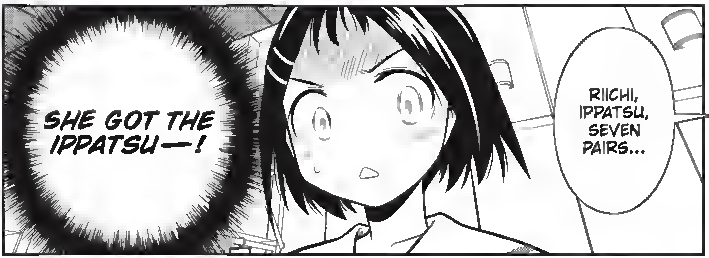
RIICHI!?

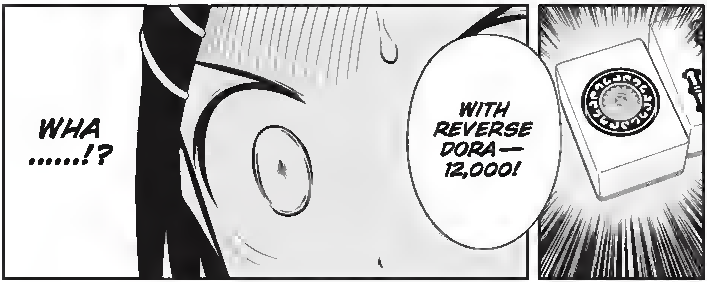

!
CHAK

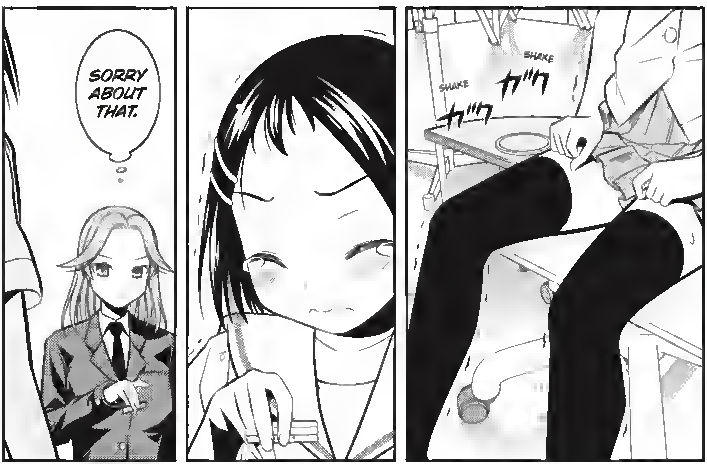

THOSE DISCARDS ARE GROSS!

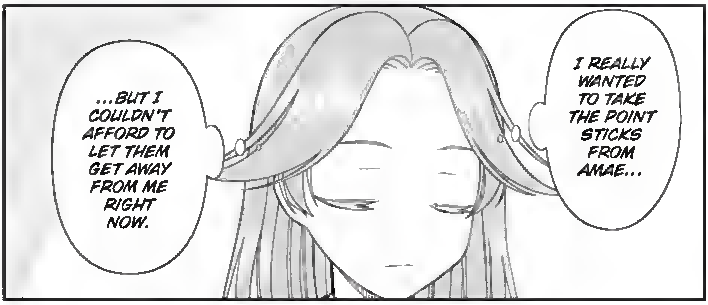


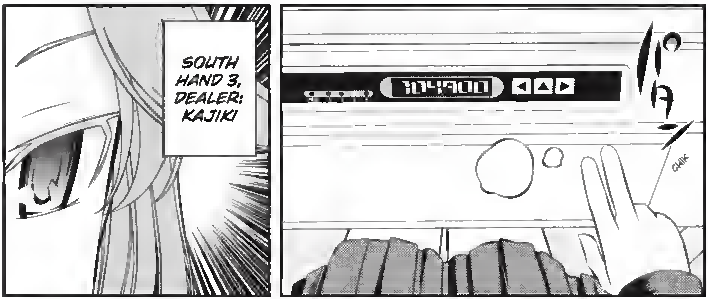

TWO TILES FROM COMPLETION OR NOT, THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO HESITATE!
SQUEEZE
BUT MY SCORE!
GO!!
RON.

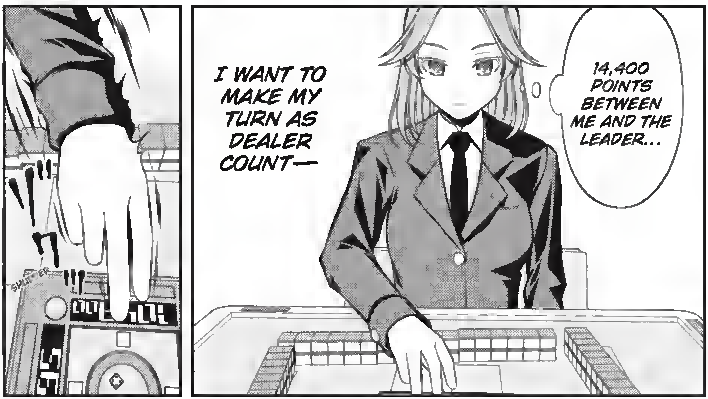

RIICHI, IPPATSU, SEVEN PAIRS...
SHE GOT THE IPPATSU—!


WITH REVERSE DORA— 12,000!
WHA .....!?


SORRY ABOUT THAT.
SHAKE
SHAKE


I REALLY WANTED TO TAKE THE POINT STICKS FROM AMAE...
...BUT I COULDN'T AFFORD TO LET THEM GET AWAY FROM ME RIGHT NOW.


SOUTH HAND 3, DEALER: KAJIKI
CLICK


I WANT TO MAKE MY TURN AS DEALER COUNT—
14,400 POINTS BETWEEN ME AND THE LEADER...

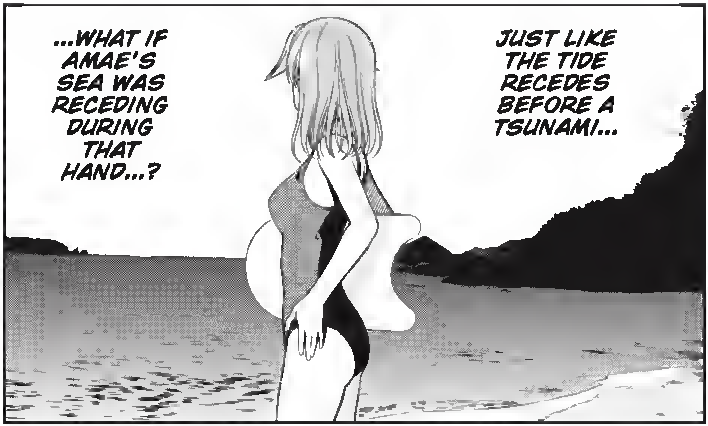
WHA
.....?
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
U...RGH!

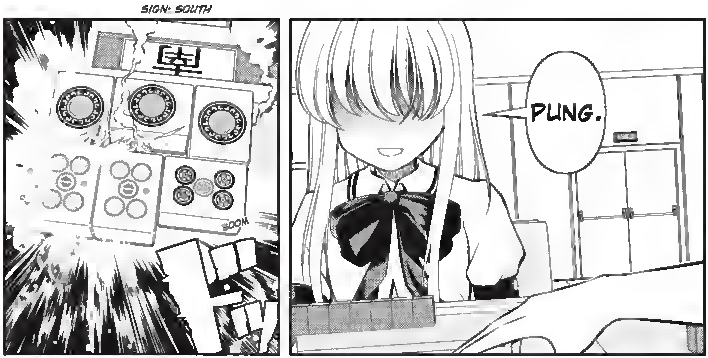
RATTLE
カッタッ
HUH?

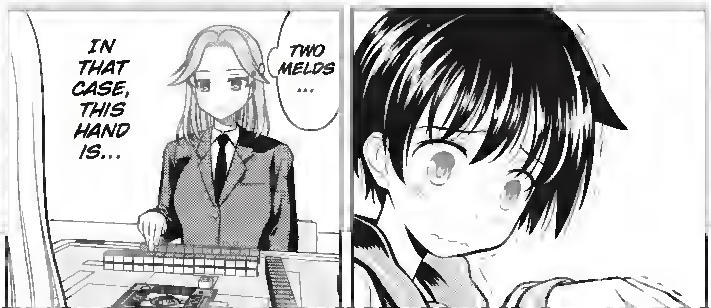
WHAT WAS THAT OPPRESSIVE FEELING!?

SO SOMEBODY ELSE CAN SENSE WHEN IT GETS THIS STRONG!
ゴクリ
THIS IS...
...WORSE THAN MY SISTER WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WIN ...!!

FWOO
PUNG!
...SHE'S JUST GETTING STARTED?
DON'T TELL ME...
SO IT WASN'T BECAUSE I DEFIED AMAE'S CONTROL THAT I WAS ABLE TO WIN THE LAST HAND...?

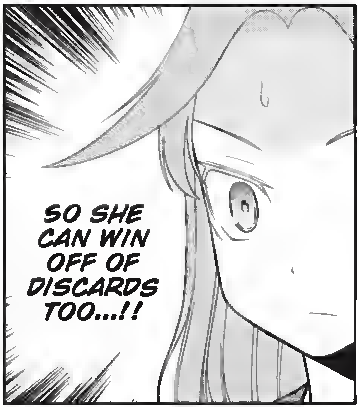

...WHAT IF AMAE'S SEA WAS RECEDING DURING THAT HAND...?
JUST LIKE THE TIDE RECEDES BEFORE A TSUNAMI...

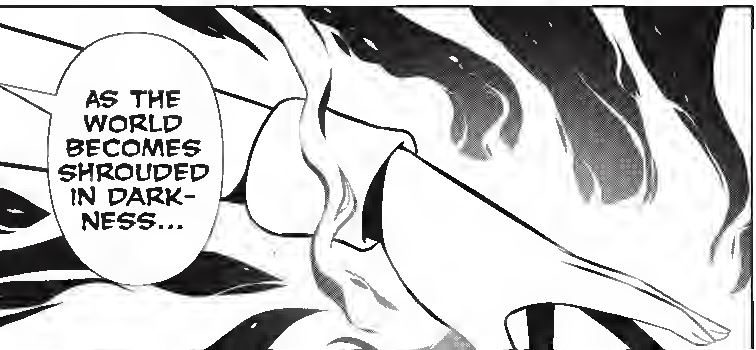

SIGN: SOUTH
BOOM
PUNG.


IN THAT CASE, THIS HAND IS...
TWO MELDS ...

!?
CAN YOU HEAR THE TOLL OF THE EVENING BELL?
RON.
WHOOM

WHOOSH
WHOOSH


SO SHE CAN WIN OFF OF DISCARDS TOO...!!


AS THE WORLD BECOMES SHROUDED IN DARK-NESS...

...THE THREADS OF YOUR FATES SHALL REACH THEIR ENDS!

HAND 40: FAR AHEAD

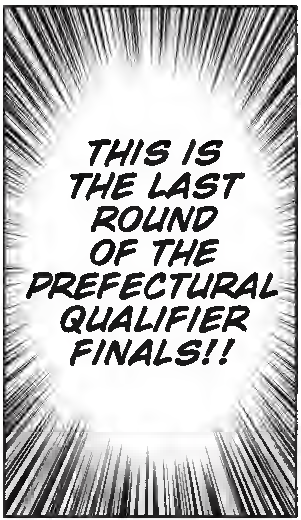
ROAR
KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
KANA IKEDA
44,600
I DISCARDED INTO TWO HANEMAN IN A ROW...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ...?
IT'S ALL IN SHAM-BLES ...!!

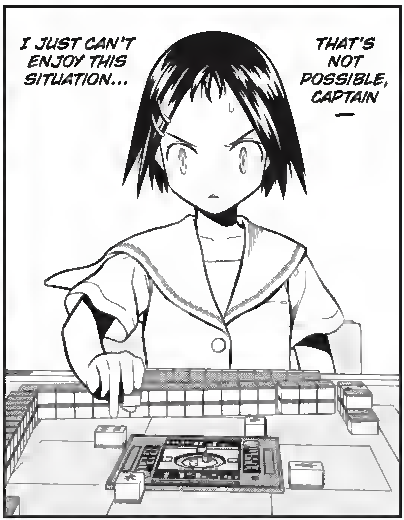
SOME-
TIMES...
...THINGS HAPPEN THAT ARE SO TERRIBLE THEY'RE HARD TO BELIEVE, RIGHT?
BUT I THINK THAT IF YOU GET ANGRY OR DEPRESSED EVERY TIME, IT'LL NEVER END.

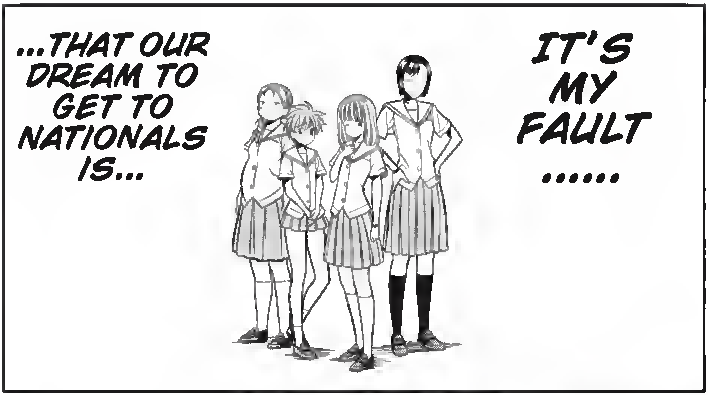
INSTEAD, YOU SHOULD BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING GOOD WILL COME ALONG EVENTUALLY.
FACE FORWARD WITH A POSITIVE OUTLOOK—

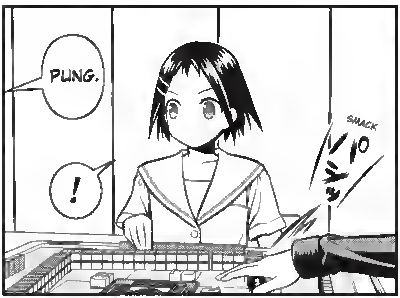
...WHATEVER COMES MY WAY, I'D LIKE TO DO THAT AND ENJOY MYSELF...

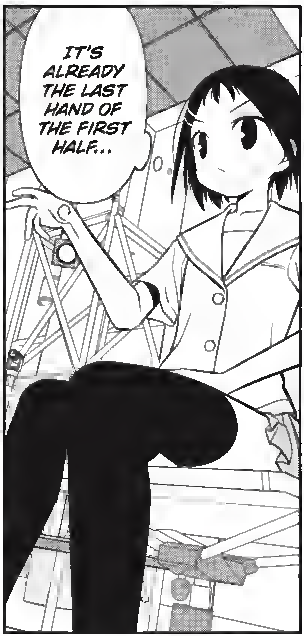
NO WAY.

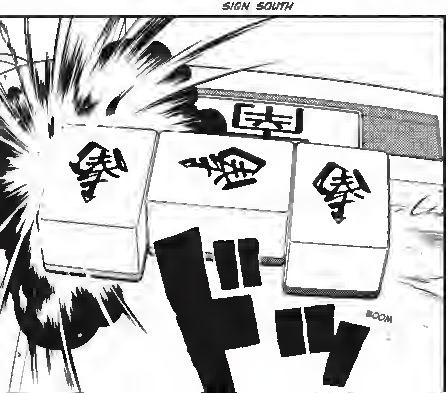

THIS IS THE LAST ROUND OF THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER FINALS!!


I JUST CAN'T ENJOY THIS SITUATION...
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, CAPTAIN —

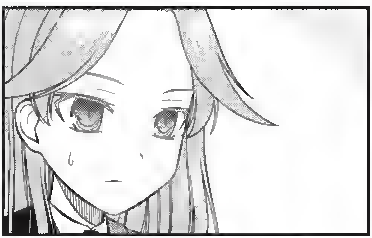

...THAT OUR DREAM TO GET TO NATIONALS IS...
IT'S MY FAULT .....

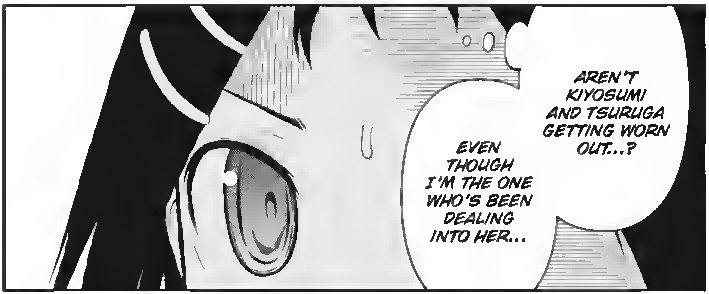

PUNG.
!
SMACK


IT'S ALREADY THE LAST HAND OF THE FIRST HALF..

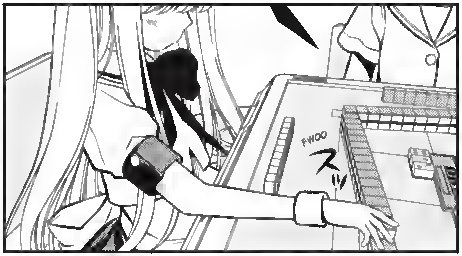

SIGN SOUTH
BOOM

DOUBLE SOUTH: PUNG OR KONG OF SOUTH TILES WHEN BOTH THE ROUND AND ONE'S SEAT ARE "SOUTH." WORTH TWO HAN

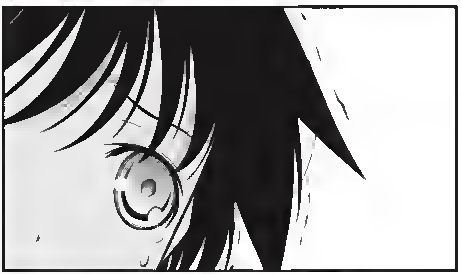



AREN'T KIYOSUMI AND TSURUGA GETTING WORN OUT...?
EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN DEALING INTO HER...

FWOOSH
ボッ


FWOO
ズッ

SHUDDER
ビクッ



TSUMO!!
BOOM
BOOM

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
3,000/
6,000!!

Th...
That's the end of the first half —!!

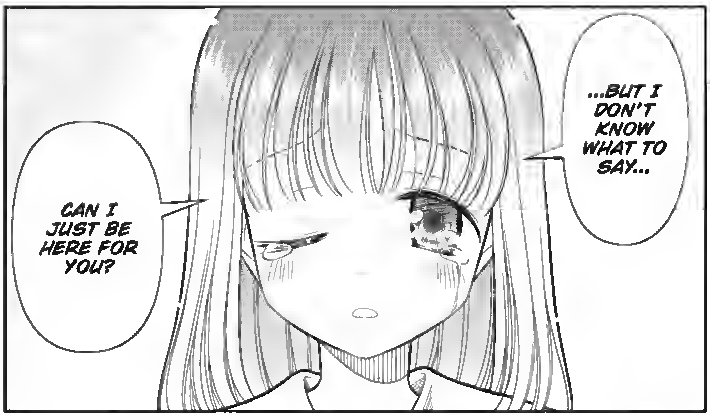
KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
KANA IKEDA
38,600
TSURUGA ACADEMY
YUMI KAJIKI
101,900
KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
SAKI MIYANAGA
116,200
RYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL
KOROMO AMAE
143,300
She's left the other schools in the dust!
Koromo Amae of Ryumonbuchi High School is far ahead of the pack...!!
ROAR
オオオ
オ

Only the second half remains! Just one hanchan left!
SHIVER
AH...
TIGHTEN
I'M GOING TO THE REST-ROOM!
I...
GULP
RATTLE
Will the prestigious Kazekoshi be able to scale the wall that is their opponent's massive lead!?
Or will the two newcomer schools catch the dragon's tail!?

FLUSTERED
オロオロ
TAP
TAP
タタッ
KANA...
PITTER-PAT
ハラ
ハラ
PLEASE DON'T VISIT ME DURING THE BREAK, CAPTAIN!
IF I'M WINNING, I'LL PROBABLY GET TOO COCKY IF I SEE YOU, AND IF BY SOME CHANCE I'M LOSING, YOU'LL PROBABLY CRY!

...YOU CAN PRAISE ME TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!
AFTER IT'S OVER...
KANA—

I KNOW I BROKE MY PROMISE BY COMING HERE...
CAPTAIN...


CAN I JUST BE HERE FOR YOU?
...BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

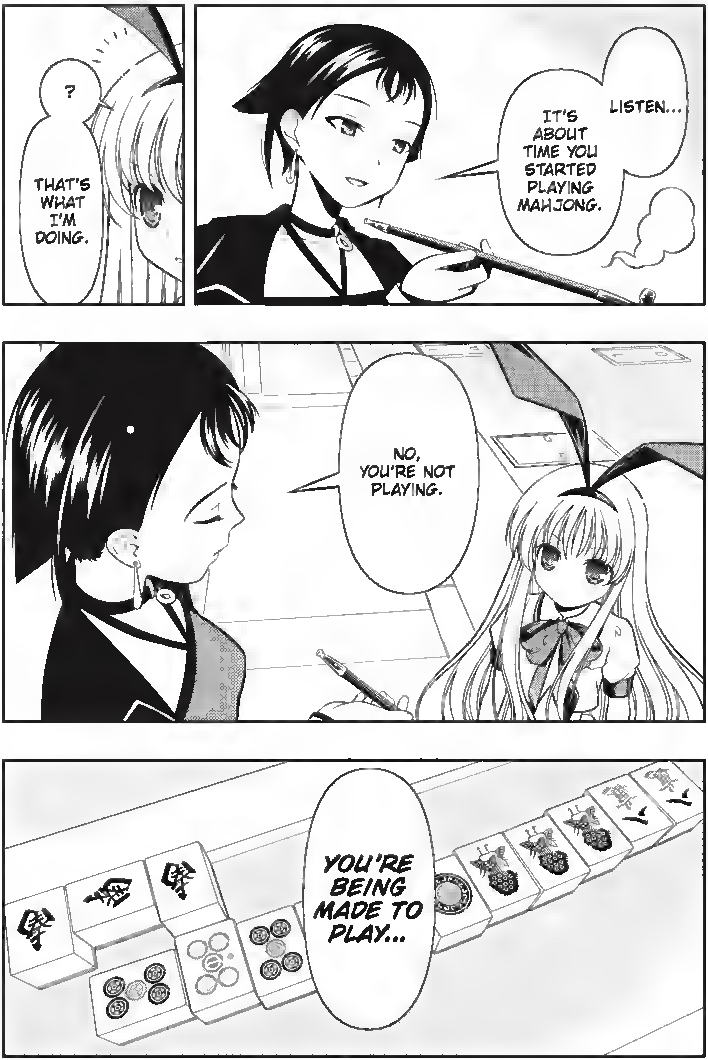
THANK YOU.
I MADE HER CRY AGAIN...
SURE.

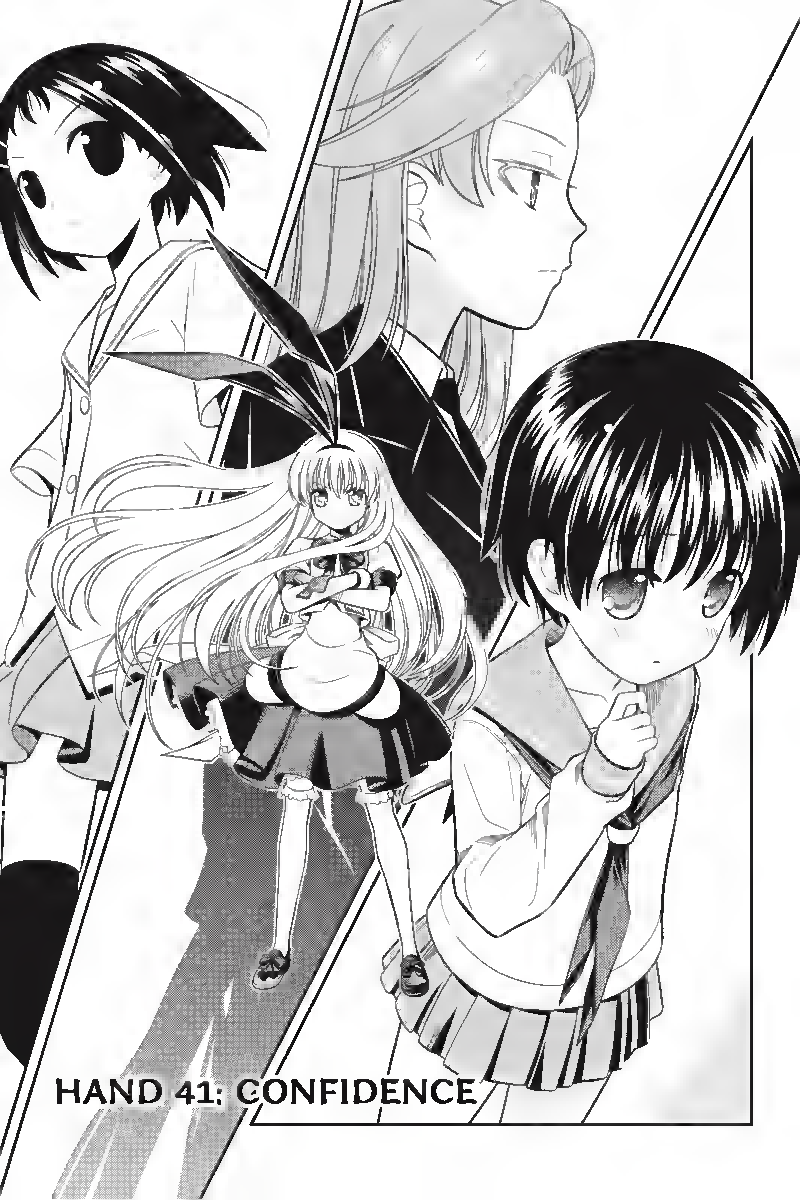
SIGN. PLEASE DON'T PUT YOUR HAND INSIDE UNTIL THE BEVERAGE COMES OUT.
RATTLE
WARNING. TAKE ONLY ONE BEVERAGE AT A TIME.
SIP
AHA.
MM?
FUJITA!
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE IN THE ZONE AGAIN THIS YEAR.

WHETHER I'M IN THE ZONE OR NOT, DO YOU THINK THEY COULD ACTUALLY WIN?
ESPECIALLY IN ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES WHEN THE SUN HAS FULLY SET.
WHAT DOES SUNSET HAVE TO DO WITH IT? AS ALWAYS, YOU'RE A FUNNY GIRL.

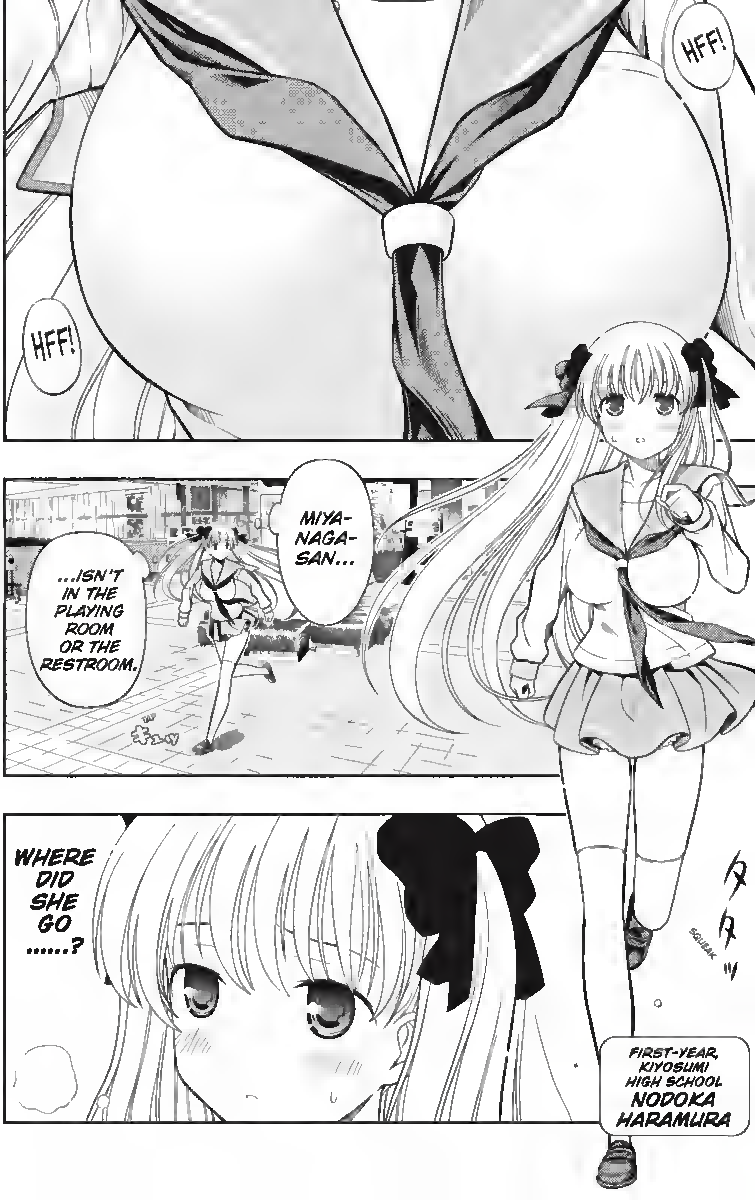
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, WHY DON'T WE PLAY AFTER-WARD—
FWAH!
TWITCH

HEY!
DON'T PET ME, YOU SEXUAL HARASS-MENT MAHJONG PRO!
A-HA-HA—


?
THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING.
LISTEN...
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU STARTED PLAYING MAHJONG.
NO, YOU'RE NOT PLAYING.
YOU'RE BEING MADE TO PLAY...



HAND 41: CONFIDENCE


HFF!
HFF!
MIYA-NAGA-SAN...
...ISN'T IN THE PLAYING ROOM OR THE RESTROOM.
WHERE DID SHE GO .....?
SQUEAK
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
NODOKA HARAMURA

IT LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ABOUT TO START CRYING...
DON'T TELL ME SHE'S SO AFRAID OF HER OPPONENT THAT SHE'S NOT COMING BACK...
.....
GULP
HLP..
...WHO WOULD NEVER DO THAT—!!
NO, MIYANAGA-SAN IS THE ONE PERSON...
DASH

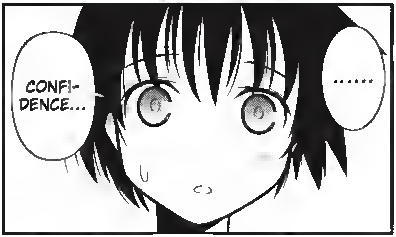
I GOT LOST AGAIN...
SNIFF
グス
WHERE AM I?
I SHOULD HAVE GONE TOWARD THE NAP ROOM. I REMEMBER THE WAY THERE...
TURNS OUT THERE ISN'T EVEN A RESTROOM THIS WAY..
PLOD
PLOD
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL SAKI MIYANAGA
MIYA-NAGA-SAN!
TWITCH

!
TMP
TMP
TMP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...!?
TWITCH
HARA-MURA-SAN!
GLOW
YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FINAL MATCH...!
GLOW
ULP...
I WAS LOOKING FOR THE RESTROOM AND GOT LOST...

...YOU GOT LOST AGAIN...?
うぅ～ん...
MIYA-NAGA-SAN...
WHERE DID THE PERSON FROM THAT DAY GO?
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU WERE THE LAST DAY OF OUR TRAINING CAMP—?
EH.....?

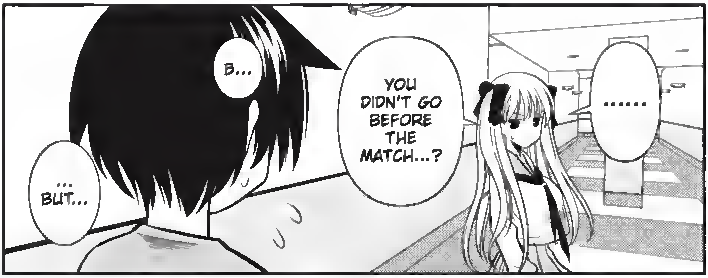
WHERE DID THE ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT SAKI FROM THAT DAY GO...!?

DIDN'T YOU SAY WE WERE GOING TO NATIONALS?

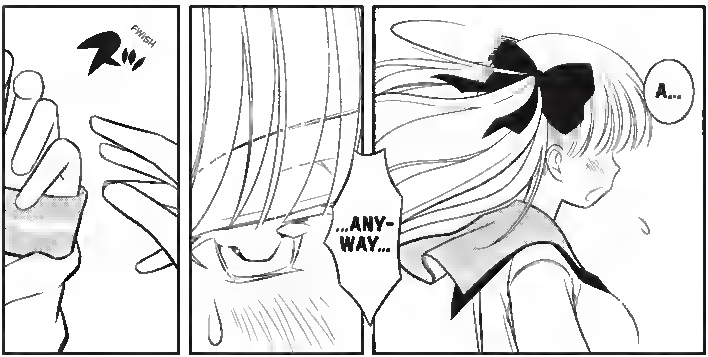

CONFI-DENCE...
.....

ポーン
BEEP
The second half will begin shortly.
!
Players, please return...
.....

I HAVEN'T GONE TO THE RESTROOM YET!
ブルブル
QUIVER
WAAA...
LET'S HURRY.
TAK


B...
...BUT...
YOU DIDN'T GO BEFORE THE MATCH...?
.....

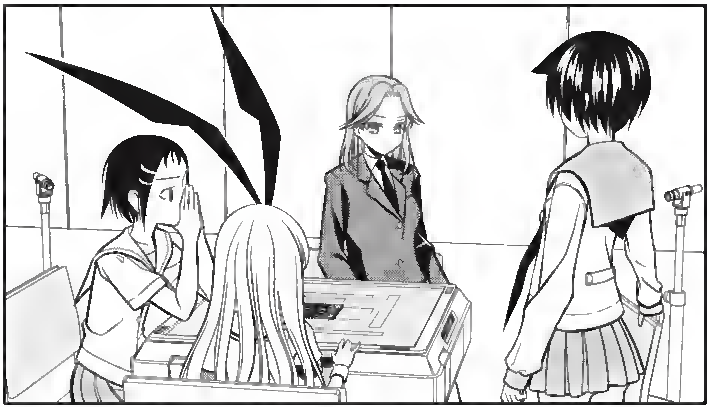
...!
...I WAS WATCHING YOUR MATCH THE WHOLE TIME, HARAMURA-SAN.

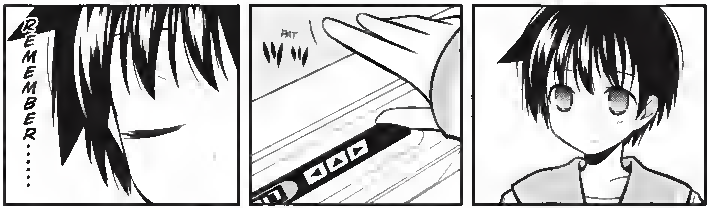

FWISH
...ANY-WAY...
A...

DASH
DASH
...WE HAVE TO GET YOU BACK THERE RIGHT AWAY!
It's the second half of the final round of the prefectural qualifier —!!
This East-South match will be the final show-down!!

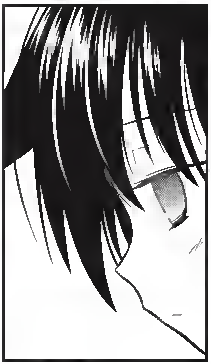
Only one of these schools...
SECOND-YEAR, RYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL
KOROMO AMAE
143,300
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
SAKI MIYANAGA
116,200
...can go to nationals ...!!
THIRD-YEAR, TSURUGA ACADEMY
YUMI KAJIKI
101,900
SECOND-YEAR, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' SCHOOL
KANA IKEDA
38,600

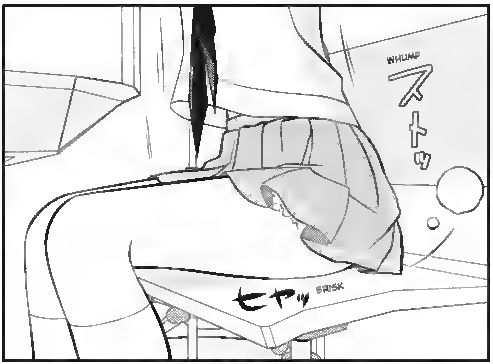
ワアアア
WAAAAAAH!



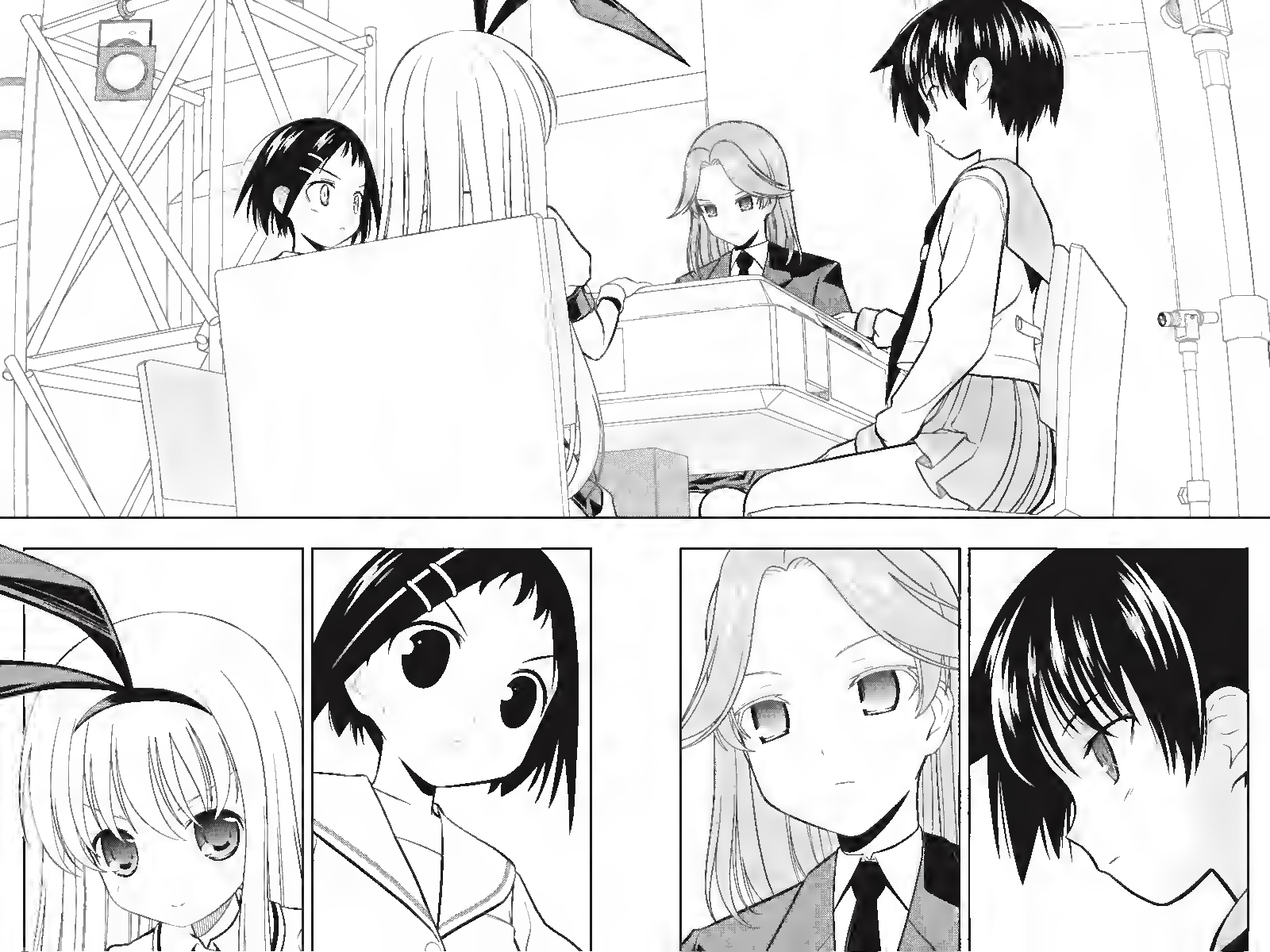

REMEMBER……
PRT

WHAT DID IT FEEL LIKE...
...ON THE LAST DAY OF TRAINING CAMP?




WHUMP
スト
ヒヤ
FRISK

REMEMBER WHEN HARAMURA-SAN ACKNOWLEDGED ME FOR THE FIRST TIME...
...AND THE ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE I HAD THEN.....



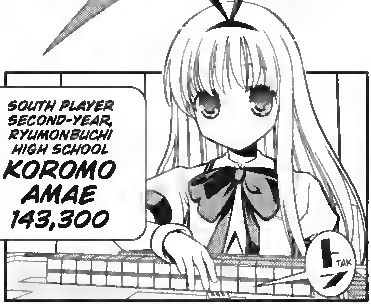
BEEP
CHAK
CHAK
RATTLE

CHAK
チャック

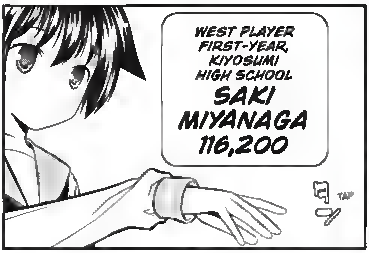
After two days of battle, it comes down to this crucial moment— the final game!
The second half begins!!

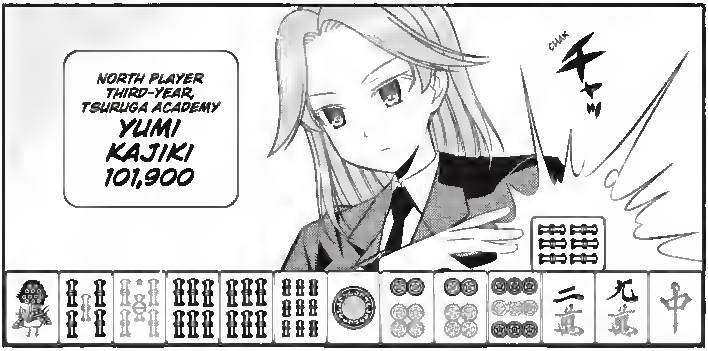
HAND 42: NIGHTMARE

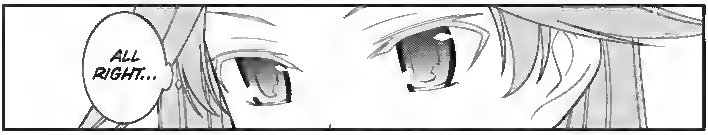
SECOND HALF, EAST HAND 1
オオォ
EAST PLAYER (DEALER) SECOND-YEAR, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
KANA IKEDA
38,600
INCLUDING THIS TURN, I HAVE TWO CHANCES LEFT AT BEING DEALER—COMMON SENSE TELLS ME THERE'S NO WAY I CAN MAKE A COMEBACK...
...BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I HAVE TO MAKE BANK AS DEALER!

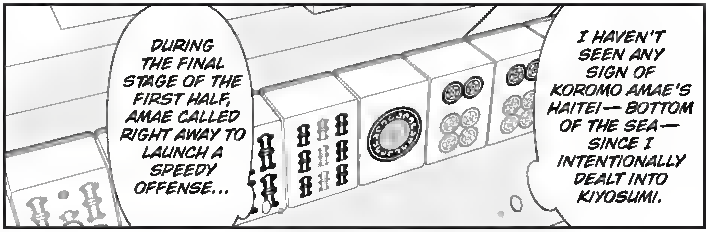

SOUTH PLAYER
SECOND-YEAR,
RYUMONBUCHI
HIGH SCHOOL
KOROMO
AMAE
143,300
TAK

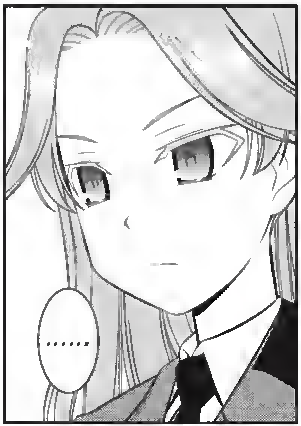
HERE
I GO!!
SMACK


WEST PLAYER
FIRST-YEAR,
KIYOSUMI
HIGH SCHOOL
SAKI
MIYANAGA
116,200
TAP

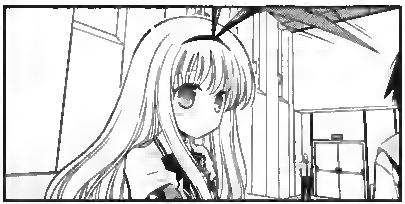

NORTH PLAYER
THIRD-YEAR,
TSURUGA ACADEMY
YUMI
KAJIKI
101,900
CHAK

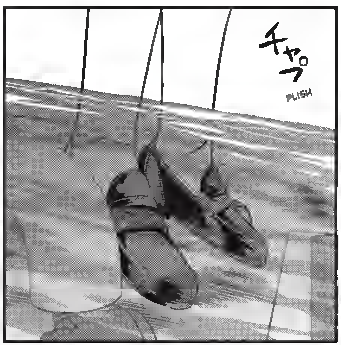

ALL
RIGHT...

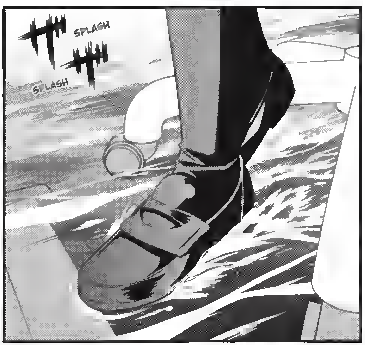

DURING THE FINAL STAGE OF THE FIRST HALF, AMAE CALLED RIGHT AWAY TO LAUNCH A SPEEDY OFFENSE...
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SIGN OF KOROMO AMAE'S HAITEI— BOTTOM OF THE SEA— SINCE I INTENTIONALLY DEALT INTO KIYOSUMI.

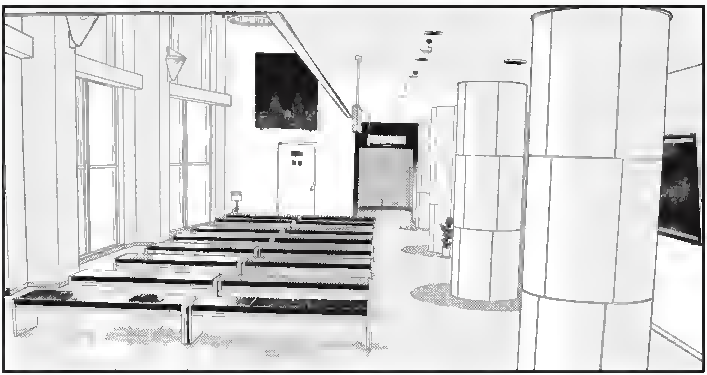

.....

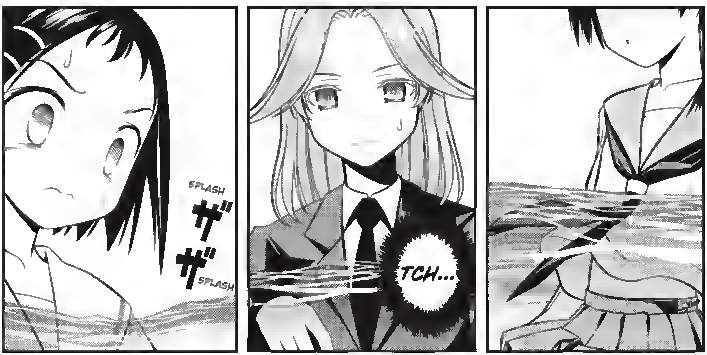
THE PACE OF HER CALLS WAS JUST TOO ABNORMAL... AND NOT JUST THE TILES. IT WAS AS IF SHE COULD DISTURB MY VERY SPIRIT.




チャプ
PLISH


SPLASH
SPLASH

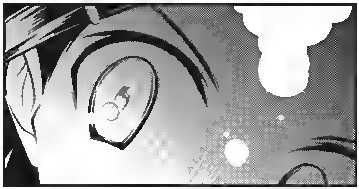


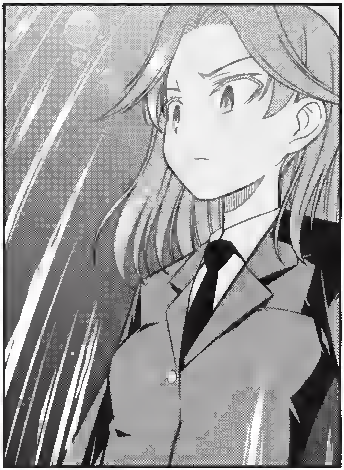

SPLASH
SPLASH
TCH...

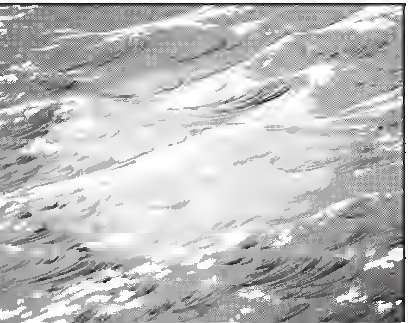
...SHE'LL DRAW THE LAST TILE FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.....
AT THIS RATE...
EVERY-ONE HAS A CLOSED HAND...
CRUSH
!!
SPLOOSH

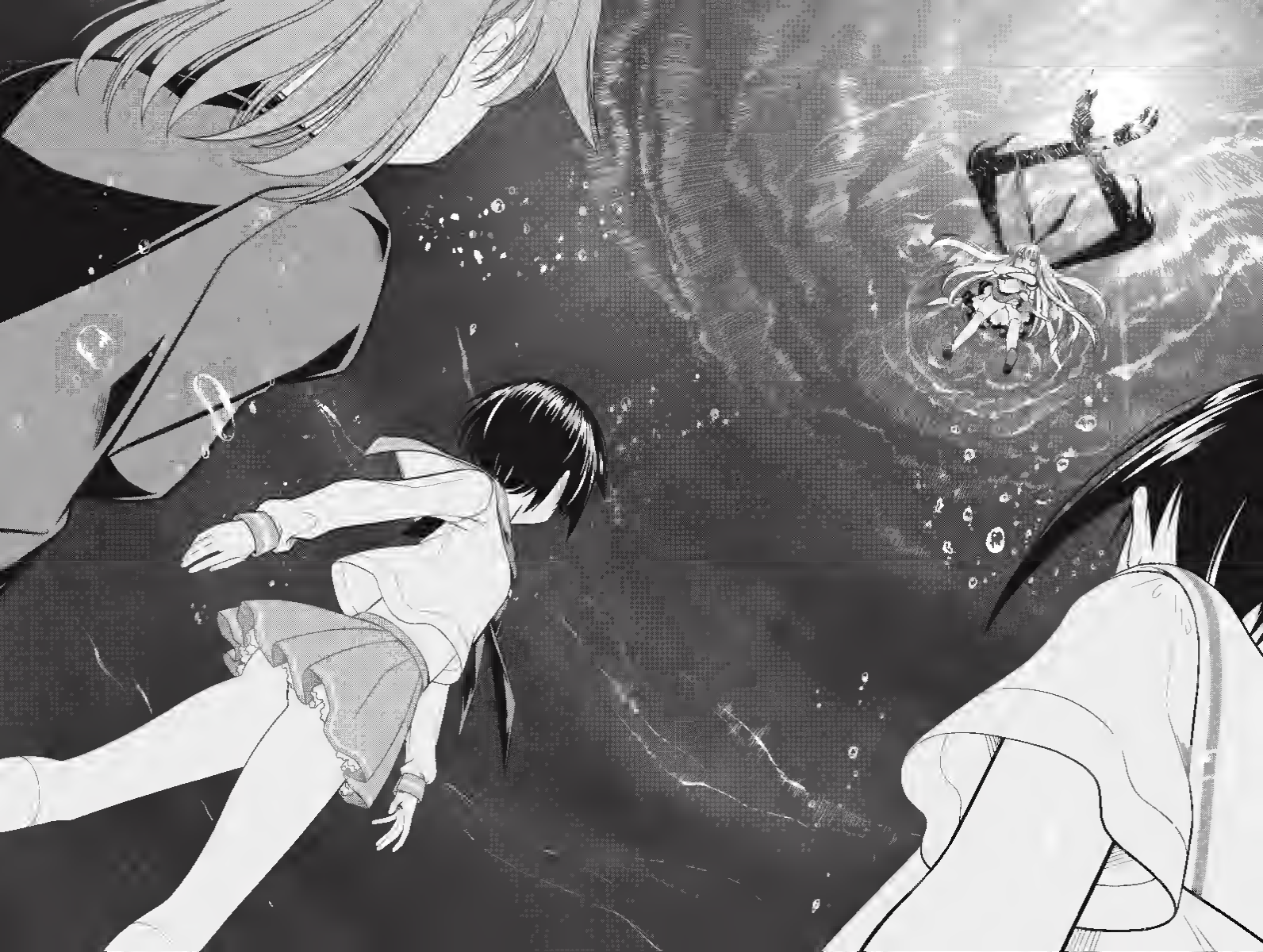
ゴポッ

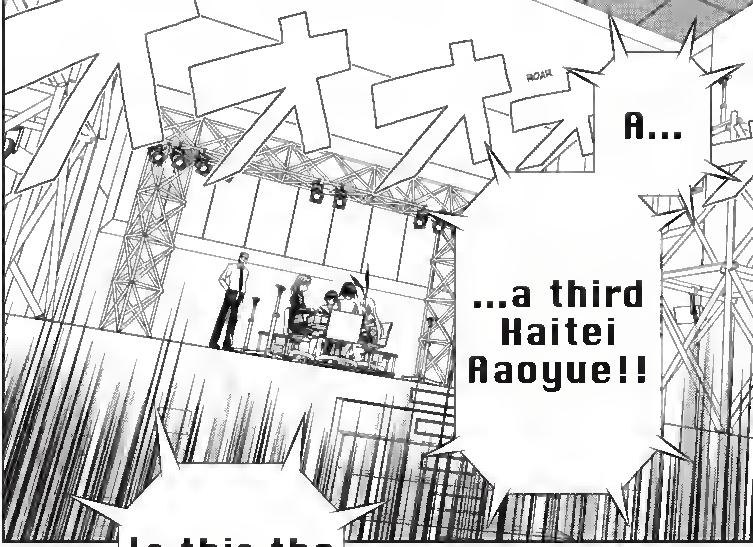
RIICHI.



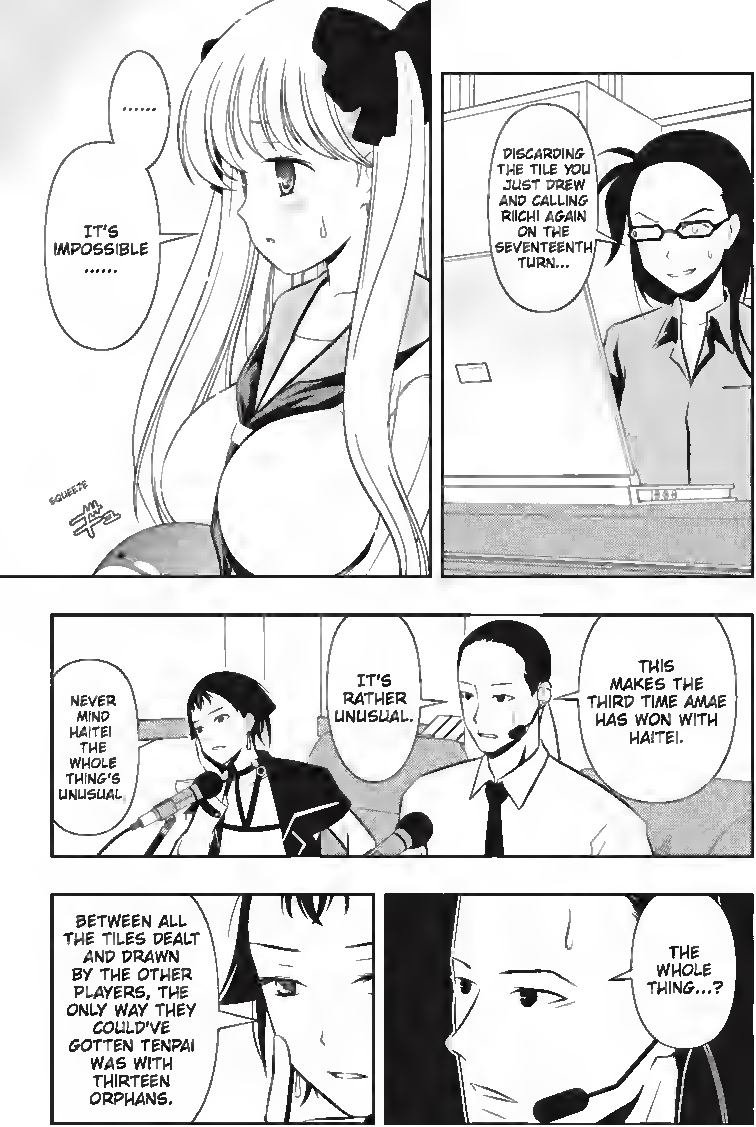


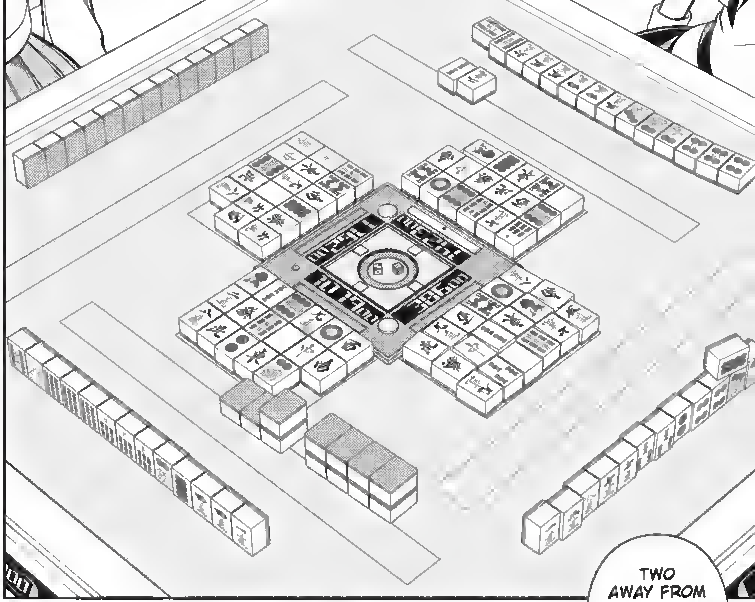


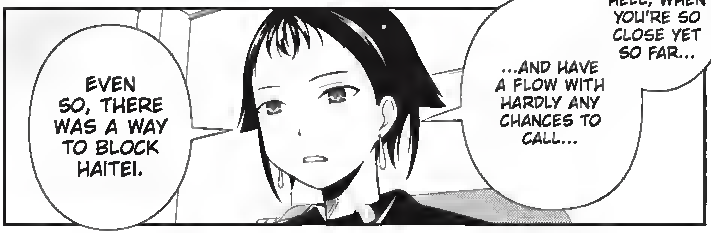


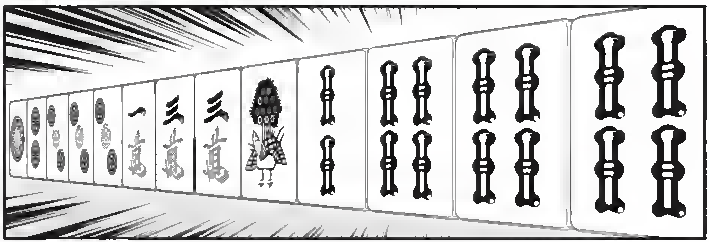

ROAR
A...
...a third Haitei Raoyue!!

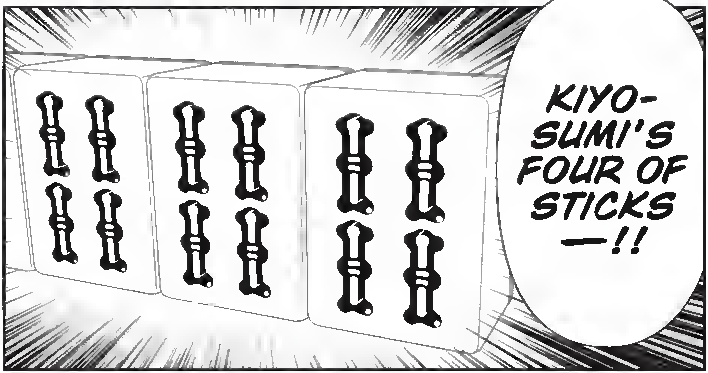
Is this the power of national-level mahjong !?

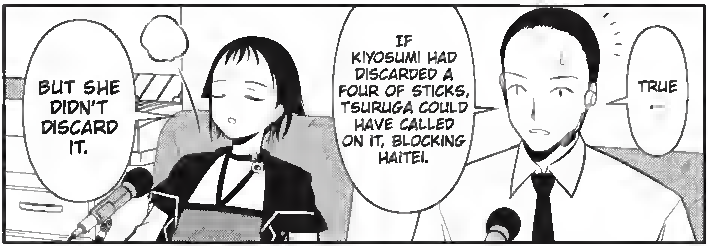

.....
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE .....
SQUEEZE
DISCARDING THE TILE YOU JUST DREW AND CALLING RIICHI AGAIN ON THE SEVENTEENTH TURN...
NEVER MIND HAITEI THE WHOLE THING'S UNUSUAL.
IT'S RATHER UNUSUAL.
THIS MAKES THE THIRD TIME AMAE HAS WON WITH HAITEI.
BETWEEN ALL THE TILES DEALT AND DRAWN BY THE OTHER PLAYERS, THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD'VE GOTTEN TENPAI WAS WITH THIRTEEN ORPHANS.
THE WHOLE THING...?

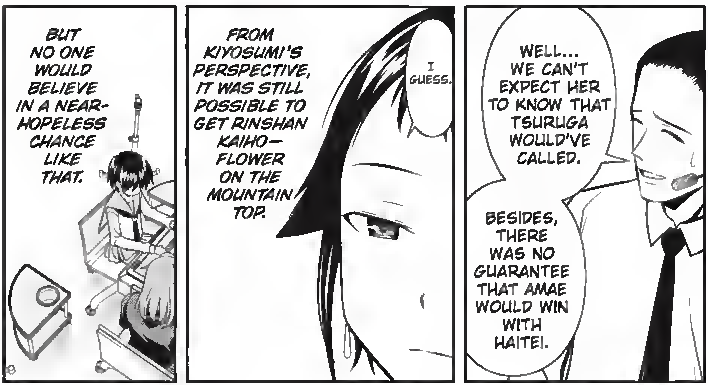



TWO AWAY FROM COMPLETION HELL, WHEN YOU'RE SO CLOSE YET SO FAR...
...AND HAVE A FLOW WITH HARDLY ANY CHANCES TO CALL...
EVEN SO, THERE WAS A WAY TO BLOCK HAITEI.

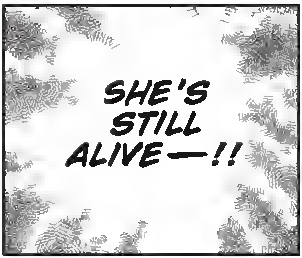


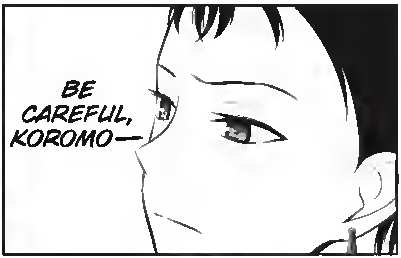

KIYO-
SUMI'S
FOUR OF
STICKS
—!!


BUT SHE DIDN'T DISCARD IT.
IF KIYOSUMI HAD DISCARDED A FOUR OF STICKS, TSURUGA COULD HAVE CALLED ON IT, BLOCKING HAITEI.
TRUE —

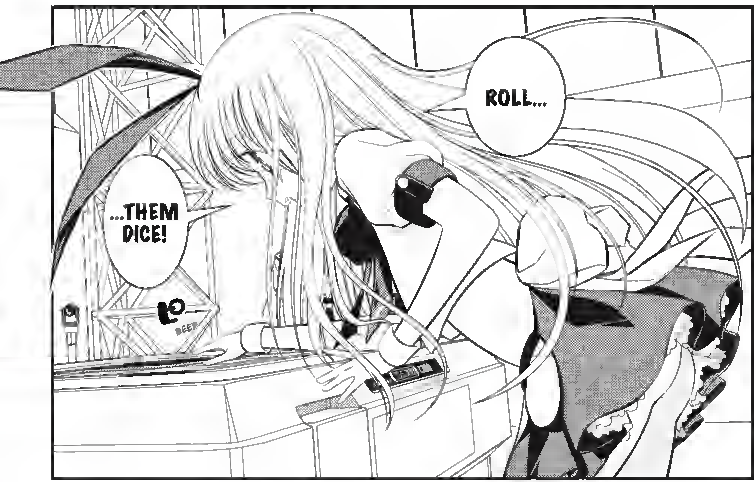

BUT NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE IN A NEAR-HOPELESS CHANCE LIKE THAT.
FROM KIYOSUMI'S PERSPECTIVE, IT WAS STILL POSSIBLE TO GET RINSHAN KAIHO— FLOWER ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP.
I GUESS.
WELL... WE CAN'T EXPECT HER TO KNOW THAT TSURUGA WOULD'VE CALLED.
BESIDES, THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT AMAE WOULD WIN WITH HAITEI.

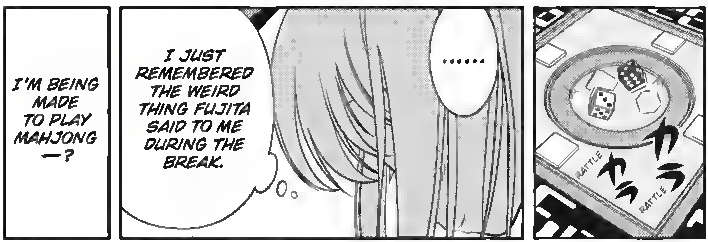
NO ONE EXCEPT HER —


SHE'S STILL ALIVE —!!


BE CAREFUL, KOROMO—

YAAAAY!
NOW KOROMO IS THE DEALER —!
FEW
GUIOM

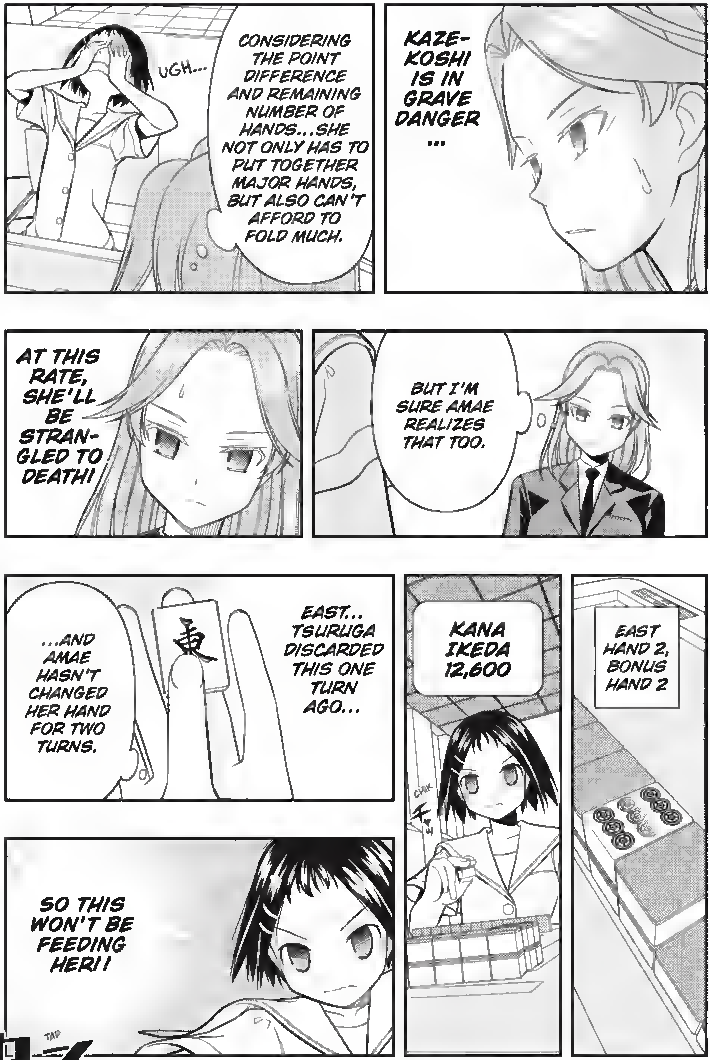

ROLL...
...THEM DICE!
BEEP


I'M BEING MADE TO PLAY MAHJONG —?
I JUST REMEMBERED THE WEIRD THING FUJITA SAID TO ME DURING THE BREAK.
.....
RATTLE
RATTLE

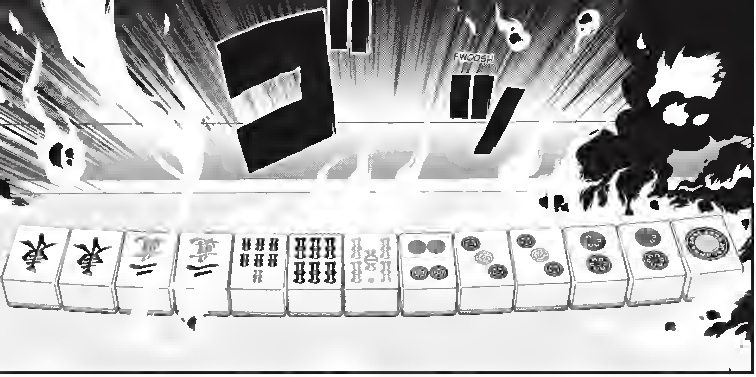
BALDERDASH!!
KOROMO ...
...IS THE ONE PLAYING, RIGHT HERE AND NOW!
EAST HAND 2
I SHALL SHOW YOU THE TRUE FACE OF DARKNESS.

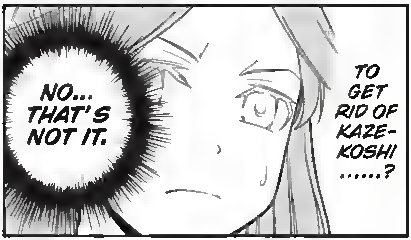
PRAYING TO AVOID AWFUL HANDS AND DRAWS IS HOW THE WEAK THINK...
...BUT IT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN DO RIGHT NOW.
キュ
SQUEEZE
THIS IS LIKE A NIGHTMARE...
RON.
トン
TAK
12,000!
!?
ゴッ
WHOOSH

ベリ…っ
RON.
EAST HAND 2, BONUS HAND 1
EH …?
7,700 WITH THE BONUS IS 8,000!
ボッ
HYAOOSH
……
THIS IS BAD…

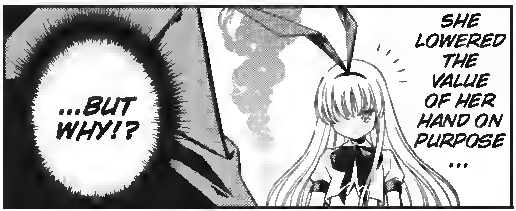

EAST HAND 2, BONUS HAND 2
KANA IKEDA 12,600
EAST... TSURUGA DISCARDED THIS ONE TURN AGO...
...AND AMAE HASN'T CHANGED HER HAND FOR TWO TURNS.
SO THIS WON'T BE FEEDING HER!
BUT I'M SURE AMAE REALIZES THAT TOO.
AT THIS RATE, SHE'LL BE STRANGLED TO DEATH!
KAZE-KOSHI IS IN GRAVE DANGER...
UGH...
CONSIDERING THE POINT DIFFERENCE AND REMAINING NUMBER OF HANDS...SHE NOT ONLY HAS TO PUT TOGETHER MAJOR HANDS, BUT ALSO CAN'T AFFORD TO FOLD MUCH.

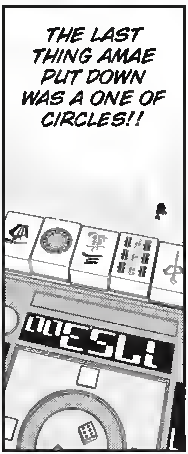
RON!!
ROOM
WHA ...!?
WHY .....!?
じわ
TROUBLE

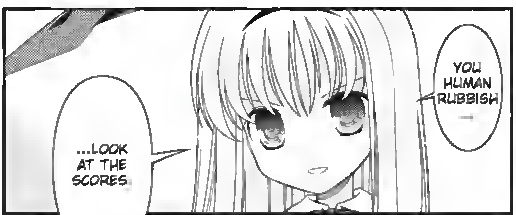

FWOOSH


NO... THAT'S NOT IT.
TO GET RID OF KAZE-KOSHI .....?

SHE DIDN'T WIN OFF OF ME, BUT TARGETED KAZE-KOSHI!?


...BUT WHY!?
SHE LOWERED THE VALUE OF HER HAND ON PURPOSE ...

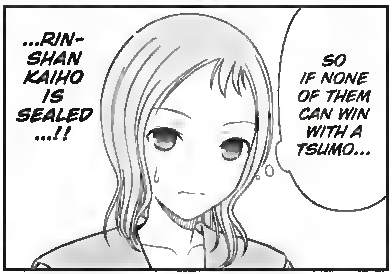

THE LAST THING AMAE PUT DOWN WAS A ONE OF CIRCLES!!


YOU HUMAN RUBBISH
...LOOK AT THE SCORES

FINAL
Second Half of the Final Round
Ryumonbuchi High School +86700
137900
Kiyosumi High School -17
113200
Tsuruga Academy -37
98900
Kazekoshi Girls' School -81300
0
ALL PATHS TO SALVATION ARE GONE!
KAZEKOSHI HAS EXACTLY ZERO POINTS.
IF ANYONE WINS WITH A TSUMO, KAZEKOSHI WILL GO BANKRUPT, AND RYUMONBUCHI AUTOMATICALLY WINS THE GAME.

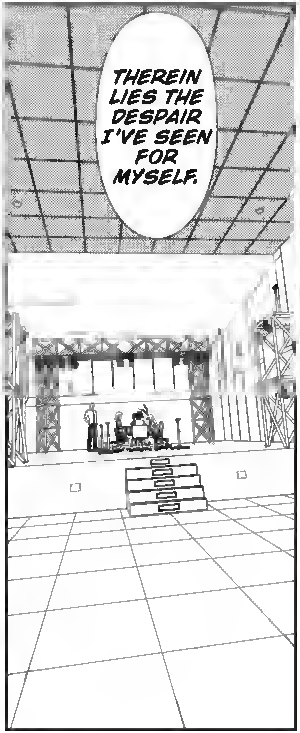
BANKRUPT: THE GAME IS OVER IF A PLAYER LOSES ALL POINT STICKS. WHETHER THE GAME IS OVER AT EXACTLY ZERO POINTS DEPENDS ON THE TOURNAMENT RULES. IN THIS CASE, THE GAME CONTINUES.

SCREECH
KOROMO IS INDULGING IN HER BAD HABIT AGAIN!
IF SHE'D KEPT THE ONE OF CIRCLES, THE MATCH WOULD BE OVER, AND WE'D BE THE WINNERS.



BUT IT WOULD'VE BEEN HARD FOR KOROMO TO BREAK HER OPPONENTS' SPIRITS THAT WAY.
SHE WANTS THEM TO BRAND THEMSELVES AS LOSERS...
...TO THINK THAT NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO, IT WON'T WORK— SHE WANTS TO SHOW THAT SHE'S ON ANOTHER LEVEL.

.....
NODO-CHAN.....?


THEREIN LIES THE DESPAIR I'VE SEEN FOR MYSELF.

I'M NOT SURE ..
.. BUT JUST FOR A MOMENT THERE, IT LOOKED LIKE...
... MIYANAGA-SAN WAS SMILING.

SIDE STORY: ABOUT LAST SUMMER

LAST SUMMER
CHIRP
CHIRP
ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ
SO HOT—
¡Qué calor!
NODO-CHAN!
!
ONE YEAR AGO
THIRD-YEAR, MIDDLE SCHOOL
YUUKI KATAOKA

OH!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
THIS IS...THAT THING.
THE FUTURE COURSE SURVEY.
AH...
I ALREADY TURNED MINE IN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO WRITE...
ONE YEAR AGO THIRD-YEAR, MIDDLE SCHOOL NODOKA HARAMURA

YOU WON THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMPION-SHIP...
...SO AREN'T ALL KINDS OF HIGH SCHOOLS SCOUTING YOU, NODO-CHAN?
THEY CERTAINLY ARE, BUT...

WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT SURE ABOUT YOUR PATH, YOU COULD ALWAYS BE MY WIFE.
ALTHOUGH, YOU HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO MAKE TACOS IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE OVER MY KITCHEN!
WHA...? REALLY?
.....
MAYBE THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA...

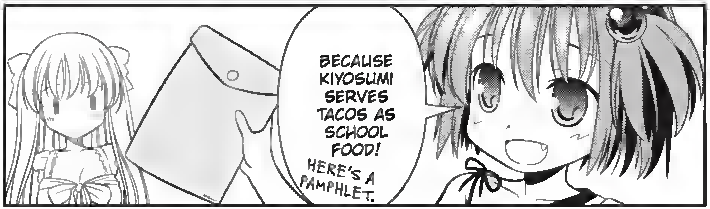
IS IT OKAY IF I FIDGET!?
HUFF?
HUFF?
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
BY THE WAY, THERE ARE IPS CELLS THAT APPARENTLY MAKE IT SO THAT SAME-SEX COUPLES CAN HAVE CHILDREN TOO.
I PEE ...?
CAN YOU EXPLAIN IT TO ME IN TACO TERMS?
DO I REALLY HAVE TO?
WELL FOR NOW, LET'S GO HOME, CHANGE, AND GO TO A HOT SPRING FOR A WHILE...
...AND AFTER WE'RE REFRESHED FROM ALL THAT SWEATING, WE CAN GET SOME TACOS!
AGAIN ?
TACOS ARE THE UNIVERSAL SOLUTION, EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO PONDERING THE FUTURE!
.....

IF I ONLY HAD TACOS AT A TIME LIKE THIS ...!
I'M SURE YOU'VE THOUGHT THAT ONCE OR TWICE!
NEVER.
NUMMY TACOS...
.....
GOBBLE
GOBBLE

SO YOU'LL BE GOING BYE-BYE NEXT SPRING, HUH?
I'LL MISS YOU...
IT WILL BE HARD SAYING GOOD-BYE...
I'VE ALREADY LOST TOUCH WITH THE FRIENDS I HAD WHEN I LIVED IN NARA...

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S LIFE SOMETIMES...
BUT LISTEN... EVEN THOUGH THESE ARE THE SAME TACOS AS ALWAYS, TODAY THEY TASTE...
CRUNCH
...JUST A LITTLE BIT LIKE YOUR BOOBS.
AND HOW WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT THEY TASTE LIKE!?
BLUSH
Please don't lick your lips.
LICK
SHUDDER

I'M THINKING ABOUT GOING TO KIYOSUMI.
KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL ...?
CLATTER
CLACK


BECAUSE KIYOSUMI SERVES TACOS AS SCHOOL FOOD!
HERE'S A PAMPHLET.

.....
KIYOSUMI .....
RUSTLE

WHEN YOU GO TO HIGH SCHOOL, I'M SURE YOU'LL MAKE NEW FRIENDS AGAIN.
I DON'T KNOW.
OF COURSE YOU WILL!

MAYBE THERE'S SOMEONE AMAZING WAITING FOR YOU, SOMEONE WHO'LL CHANGE EVERYTHING!

SAKI 5 END

Saki 5

writer/artist
Ritz Kobayashi

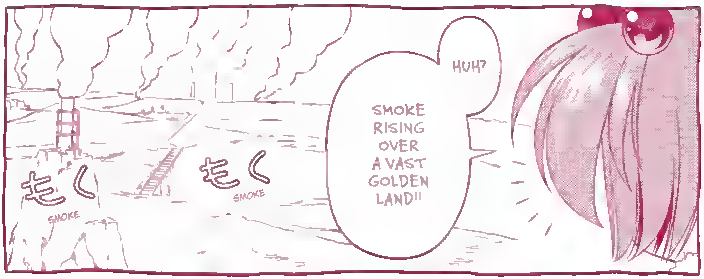
assistant background **inks**
Daisuke Nakano, Mitsuru Matsuo, may, Yaokin

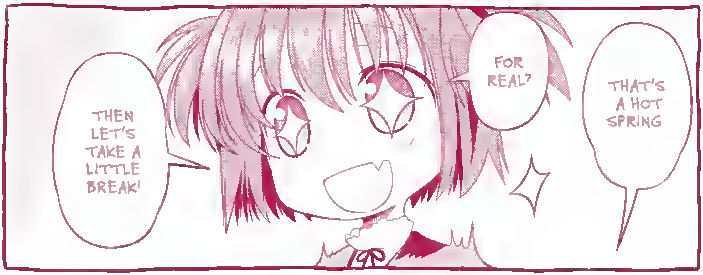
color **background** assistant
Yaokin

special thanks
Yoshihiro Ogihara, Taukinako, ZOOTAN

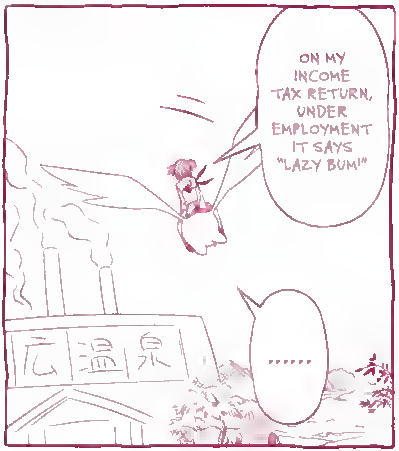
editor
Ganta Yokoyama

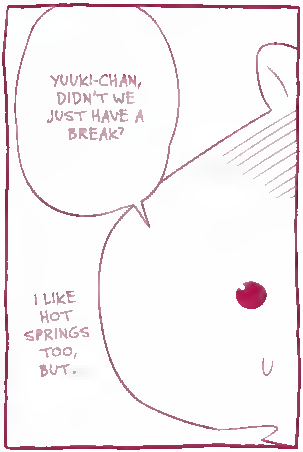
咲5
-Saki-
PYOOSH
ARE WE THERE YET?
AH... AT THIS SPEED, IT'LL TAKE ABOUT ANOTHER EIGHT YEARS TO GET THERE
YIKES
THAT'S FAR—





SIGN: KUNIHIRO HOT SPRING





TO BE CONTINUED

SQUARE ENIX.

SAKI 5

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